Atsui Hibi

-Midorikawa Yuki

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Hana to Yume COMICS

ATSUI HIBI

MIDORIKAWA YUKI

The stories in this book are plain fiction and have no relation with the real world at all.

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Flower's Marking

Year 1 Class 2 Tooyama's Report
Cold Day Like Before

Atsui Hibi

May I have your name?

Nameless Guest

Mmm
Mmm
Mmm

The first day...
OI! IKEDA GOROU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Splash
ISN'T THAT THAT'S DEFINITELY CLASS 3'S HEAD OF COMMITTEE
...

FINDING SOME-THING . .
PLOP
MMM...
HONOUR STUDENT IKEDA GOROU. GOOD REPUTATION, QUITE SERIOUS,
BUT JUST BECAUSE HE WAS LATE A FEW DAYS AGO, HE HAS BECOME THE LATEST SUBJECT OF GOSSIP.
WHEN I SAW HIM IN SCHOOL, HE GAVE ME QUITE A GOOD IMPRESSION.
BUT HE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.
SPLASH
PLOP
SPLASH
OH!
OH!
LOOKS LIKE FUN

HANA TO YUME COMICS

ATSUI HIBI

Midorikawa Yuki

ATSUI HIBI

Midorikawa Yuki

白泉社

● Midorikawa Yuki's Other Works

—— Hana to Yume Comic ——

Akaku Saku Koe 3 Volumes Complete

Atsui Hibi

9784592177999

ISBN4-592-17799-1

C9979 ¥390E

1929979003906

定価 本体390円+税

雑誌43777－74

HANA TO YUME COMICS

▶Summary◀

When Kunuyoshi was on his way home, he saw honour student Ikeda, in the river, looking for his notebook. Then, the girl who picked up the notebook, Murozono, appears and she has come to know about the 'murder-plans' written in it... Also contains earlier one-shots by Midorikawa Yuki: Flower's Marking, Cold Day like Before and Nameless Guest.

■LaLa掲載■

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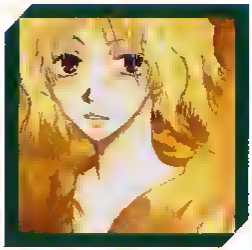


Summary

When Kunuyoshi was on his way home, he saw honour student Ikeda, in the river, looking for his notebook. Then, the girl who picked up the notebook, Murozono, appears and she has come to know about the 'murder-plans' written in it... Also contains earlier one-shots by Midorikawa Yuki: Flower's Marking, Cold Day like Before and Nameless Guest.

NEED SOME HELP?
NO...
WHY NOT TAKE YOUR SHIRT OFF? YOU MIGHT DROWN
SWIMMING ISN'T ALLOWED HERE.
It's easier to explain like this
YOU'RE QUITE THE HONEST PERSON.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
...
STUDENT NOTE-BOOK
YOU CAN JUST BUY THAT AT A STORE FOR 500 YEN!
...JUST GET LOST

こんにちは 綾川です。
なんと 千冊目を出して頂けました！ しかも 憧れの短編集です。嬉しい。絵も売り上げも ピヨウな所な作家なのですが 何度も チャンスを頂き 応援してくれた方々 編集部の皆様 協力してくれた 方々に 大感謝です。 益々 意欲的に 作品 創りに 燃えて行きますのでも おつきあいくださいませ！

担当 I 様
デビュー前から お世話になった 担当様が ついに他誌に 移動してしまわれました。投稿した先に この方がいなければ コミックスを 出して頂ける マンガ家には なれていなかったのでは と思います。ヘコみやすく すぐ アレルギーが 落ちてしまう 私を よくやってるよと はげましつづけてくださいました。小さな 方向の違いに つまずき続ける私と 共に 戦ってくれたり しびれるくらい 嬉しい 知らせを 運んでくれた 大恩人です。
今後に 恩返しも できますよう 早く 面白いものを 描けるように なろうね！

I FOUND THIS DOWN-STREAM
Mun
YOU'RE IKEDA-KUN?
IS THIS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
OH?
MUROZONO OF CLASS 2
When did she get here?
...YES,
BECAUSE I NEEDED TO KNOW WHO THE OWNER WAS
BUT,
INSIDE...
DID YOU READ IT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL, BUT I'D ADVISE YOU TO NOT DO ANYTHING STUPID
I WON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT WHAT'S INSIDE
IF YOU REALLY PLAN TO DO ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE WRITTEN IN HERE, THEN I CAN'T RETURN IT TO YOU!

Thud
!!
OF COURSE NOT.
INSIDE THIS...
THERE'S NO PICTURE OF A GIRL IN THERE?
THAT'S A BIT DRAMATIC,
WHA...
SHUT UP!
IF YOU SAY A WORD OF IT TO SOMEONE ELSE,
...?
EVEN YOU...
DON'T TELL ME YOU REALLY WANT TO KILL PEOPLE!?

USING THE 'MURDER PLAN' WRITTEN INSIDE!?
ANYWAY,
Walks
I'LL KEEP THIS NOTEBOOK FOR YOU FIRST!
!!
WAIT...

MMm
MMm
MMm
MMm
WHAT MURDER PLAN, IT'S JUST A JOKE, NO?
DO YOU KNOW... WHAT THAT GIRL'S NAME IS?
...
I'M KUNIYOSHI FROM CLASS 5.
IF EITHER OF YOU DARE TO UTTER A WORD OF IT, I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
WHETHER IT'S THAT GIRL,
OR YOU.

I WILL NEVER FORGIVE THOSE WHO INTERFERE WITH ME.
Milan
Milan
Milan
I'M HOME...
Opens
WELCOME HOME...
Rolls
Milan
Milan
AH! IF YOU WANT TO ROLL AROUND, TAKE OFF YOUR UNIFORM FIRST!
It'll get wrinkled!
'MURDER PLAN'
NO FEELING AT ALL...
I'VE CUT SOME WATERMELON, GO HAVE SOME.
DAD SAID HE'LL BUY SOME NEW ONES TODAY.
ALL RIGHT-
A CALM DAY
SAME AGE,
A PERSON GROWING UP IN A VILLAGE LIKE THIS...

*MEANING WASH TOILET. T/N: NOT REALLY SURE WHAT IT MEANS, BUT HERE'S A LINK FOR YOU TO CHECK XD HTTP://WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/ATHENS/ATLANTIS/5287/WASHLET.HTML
EK/N: IT'S SUPPOSEDLY A CHAIR WHICH HAS BUTTONS ON IT TO CHANGE ITS TEMPERATURE AND STUFF.

HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS... BECAUSE IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS WRITTEN IN A RUSH.
SO I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST SOME SCRIBBLES FOR A NOVEL OR SOMETHING... BUT HIS REACTION...
NOT NORMAL...
IF THOSE WERE JUST SOME SCRIBBLES
JUST LAUGH AND FORGET IT...
AH, I SEE...
THAT GUY WON'T LIE.
IF HE STILL PLANS TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN HE WROTE,
I WILL STOP HIM NO MATTER WHAT...
NOW, EVEN KUNIYOSHI -KUN'S INVOLVED...
I'M REALLY SORRY...
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT. BE CAREFUL TODAY AND DON'T GO OUT. YOU CAN FILL ME IN WITH THE DETAILS TOMORROW AT SCHOOL
drip
drip
Kuniyoshi
SINCE YOU STILL HAVE HIS NOTEBOOK, I THINK HE WOULDN'T DARE TO DO ANYTHING TO YOU YET.
OKAY.
THANK YOU, I'D BE A BIT AFRAID IF I WERE ALONE.
RIGHT, I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT WE SHOULD JUST DO WHATEVER WE CAN NOW.

ALRIGHT, THANK YOU
Kamiyoshi
HONEST IKEDA GORO
WHO COULD HE POSSIBLY WANT TO KILL?
Kamiyoshi

RATTLE
I'M HOME! I EVEN BROUGHT WATERMELON BACK!
WHAT'S WRONG, WHY ARE YOU SO WET?
HEY, YOU,
I'M FINE.
THANKS.
IS THAT SO,
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME.
I WILL.
KWAPS!

The second day
IKEDA GOROU
QUITE POPULAR,
RATHER GOOD... looking?
EXCEL-LENT RESULTS,
GOOD BEHA-VIOR,
DAMN THAT PRETTY BOY!
Mhm
Mhm
HE'S THE SAME AS USUAL
HE DOESN'T EVEN SEEM LIKE HE'LL PULL ANY TRICKS...
Mhm
...
IF IT'S LIKE THIS AND NOTHING HAPPENS, IT'D BE BETTER IF I HAD JUST MISUNDERSTOOD IT...
NO MATTER WHAT, WE SHOULD JUST KEEP AN EYE ON HIM FIRST.

THANK YOU, KUNIYOSHI -KUN.
YOU CAN JUST CALL ME KUNIYOSHI.
I'M ALSO QUITE INTERESTED IN IKEDA NOW.
LET'S GO DO SOME INVESTIGATING.
OKAY.
IS THAT ALL?
HE'S QUITE THE GENIUS AND IS VERY POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS...
2-3
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING MORE?
I HEARD ABOUT THAT TOO...
HE WAS LATE FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY
AH, RECENTLY,
IKEDA?

新担当様

この「アリイヒビ」からは新しい担当様にお世話になりました。
新担当様は私がなかなか取り掛かれないでいる所に重きを置かれている発生方を多く指摘されていて
その中ではたして私の作品に魅力を感じて頂けるだろうかとドキドキしました。
そしてこの方にホレて頂ける作品を創らねば…という気持ちがなかなか取りくめなかったことへ拍車するための大切な転機となりました。
明るくとても不思議にパワーをくれる方で何度も助けて頂きました。
そうして出来た短編集です。楽しんで頂けたら幸いです。

さて、せっかくなので私がずっと苦手としていたそのことについて書いてみようかと思います。
内輪的なことが見えたら冷めてしまう～という方はここからの4Pは読み飛ばしてやってくださいませ。

そういう方ごめんなさいねっ

I'M HOME
HE PROBABLY WENT TO PLAY PACHINKO*
I SEE...
*JAPANESE PINBALL
MOTHER, ARE YOU GOING TO WORK NOW?
YES.
...FATHER?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE HE CAN'T GET ALONG WITH HIS STEP-FATHER.
EEH, HE'S QUITE THE HONOUR STUDENT
OTHER THAN THAT, THE LAST THING I KNOW IS THAT HE GOES UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR'S DATA ROOM TO SLEEP DURING NOON BREAK AND AFTER SCHOOL
I GUESS THAT KINDA MEANS HE CAN'T SLEEP WELL AT HOME?
HIS CHOICE ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE CHANGED FROM FURTHER STUDIES TO WORKING

MOTHER, THE PAPER BENEATH THAT BOOK,
DID YOU READ IT?
EH?
NEVER MIND...
FORGET IT.
...
GOROU,
ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME?
SOMETHING ABOUT LEAVING HOME AFTER GRADUATING...
IF GOROU FEELS HURT...
I...
MOTHER, I'M FINE
I CAN ALREADY...
LIVE ON MY OWN.
'IKEDA F. MILY...'
'WAS ALWAYS SINGLE-PARENTED, BUT HIS MOTHER RE-MARRIED RECENTLY.'

I'M SORRY
BUT I WAS AFRAID TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
'THE GUY DRINKS AND GAMBLES AND HAS A VERY BAD IMAGE.'
'THE FACT IKEDA IS GETTING INJURIES LATELY,'
'I HEARD THAT IT WAS THE DOING OF HIS STEP-FATHER.'
MUROZONO, YOU KNEW ABOUT IT LONG AGO, RIGHT?
EH...
THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT THE SCRIBBLES IN THE NOTEBOOK WERE JUST A JOKE

IN THE NOTEBOOK.
IT'D BE NICE IF WE COULD HELP.
YEAH
ONE OF THE PAGES HAD SCRIBBLES THAT WERE WRITTEN LIKE HE WAS RANTING.
THAT PAGE HAD HIS MESSY YET BEAUTIFUL HANDWRITING.
THE PLANS SEEMED EASY, BUT THEY WERE WAYS TO TAKE ONE'S LIFE AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THEY WERE JUST ACCIDENTS.
LIVING THEIR LIVES WITH THOUGHTS LIKE THESE...
BUT JUST THINKING THAT SOMEONE COULD WRITE SOMETHING LIKE THIS,
THOUGH WE DON'T KNOW IF HE WAS SERIOUS ABOUT IT,
The third day
TODAY TOO, NOTHING STRANGE SEEMED TO BE GOING ON...
MY CHEST WOULD START TO ACHE.
CHIRP
CHIRP

SO HOT!
REALLY HOPING THAT SUMMER WILL END SOON.
.I DON'T REALLY LIKE HOT WEATHER EITHER..
MAKES IT HARD TO THINK,
I CAN'T EVEN SLEEP PROPERLY,
OH.
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP PROPERLY THESE DAYS...
HOW LONG...
HAS IKEDA GONE THROUGH THESE TYPES OF DAYS?
...
ALRIGHT! HURRY AND SOLVE THIS MATTER!
STAN DS
Sunrise
I WAS SCARED, THAT'S WHY I DARED NOT TAKE THIS STEP,
BUT NOW I'M NOT ALONE
THERE'S SURE TO BE A WAY

I'M GOING TO CHECK ON SOMETHING.
LET'S SPLIT UP! I'LL LEAVE IKEDA-KUN TO YOU!
EH?
Run
Ahhh
Ahhh
Ahhh
URGH
SO TIRED...
Di-ng Do-ng
So true too
tired
Bye bye!
See you tomorrow!
IKEDA ISN'T DOING ANY-THING...
AND IF HE REALLY WANTS TO KILL HIS STEP-DAD, IT'S USELESS IF I KEEP STALKING HIM IN SCHOOL.
...
ALRIGHT! BETTER OFF IF I JUST ASK HIM IF HE IS GOING TO MAKE HIS MOVE OR NOT!
So annoying!
KUNIYOSHI, I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN GOING AROUND ASKING ABOUT IKEDA.
Cla
xter

IKEDA HAS BEEN ASKING ABOUT YOU, TOO.
YEAH.
HE'S WORRIED ABOUT OUR MOVEMENTS...
Data Room
Ahaha, is that so, bye now...
Eh! Serious?
IS THAT SO...
I DIDN'T NOTICE...
Open
Pull
OH!?
Thud!
OUCH!

WHAT -
KUNI-YOSHI..
IKEDA,
I HEARD YOU WERE INVESTIGATING ME?
NOT REALLY INVESTIGATING --
WHAT I KNOW ABOUT YOU:
A VERY NICE PER-SON,
A BIG PER-VERT,
HAS PARENTS AND A LITTLE SISTER,
BIG APPE-TITE,
AND VERY UNEX-PECTED, QUITE POPU-LAR.
EH?
SERIOUS !?
!?
Serious
Uoooo
I ALSO INVESTIGATED THAT MUROZONO GIRL.

RETURN THAT NOTEBOOK TO ME, KUNIYOSHI.
IF NOT, I'LL...
GO AND ASK IT FROM HER PERSONALLY
NO MATTER WHAT METHOD IT IS
ARE YOU THREATENING ME?
FORGET IT,
YOU DON'T PLAN ON ACTUALLY KILLING YOUR STEP-DAD, RIGHT?
TO TOP IT OFF,
I'M THE ONE KEEPING THIS NOTEBOOK,
IF THIS NOTEBOOK IS YOUR WEAKNESS,
SHOULDN'T YOU BE THE ONE BEING THREATENED?

I WON'T CARRY OUT THE PLAN WRITTEN IN THERE.
I PROMISE YOU.
GIVE IT BACK TO ME, KUNIYOSHI.
PLEASE, GIVE IT BACK.
SO,
THAT NOTEBOOK IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME. WITHOUT THAT ON ME I JUST WON'T FEEL SAFE.
I DEFINITELY WON'T KILL MY STEP-DAD.
I SHOULD BELIEVE HIM AND RETURN IT TO HIM...
EVEN THOUGH MUROZONO WOULD GET MAD.
BECAUSE THIS WAY...
SUCH AN HONEST EXPRESSION
...

IKEDA HE
CAN CALM DOWN A BIT
IT'S A DEAL.
THANK YOU
BUT...
I STILL FEEL UNEASY ABOUT SOMETHING
WOULD SUCH AN IMPORTANT NOTEBOOK OF YOURS DROP INTO THE RIVER?
WHAT IS IT
AND WHY...

NNN?
Dude
'BUT YET HE CAME TO SCHOOL WITH THIS WHOLE BODY WET, HE HALF SMILED AND SAID,
"SORRY,"
'THAT-DAY WAS SUCH A NICE SUNNY DAY.'
AH...
THIS MEANS,
THAT THE REASON YOU WERE LATE WAS REALLY...
"I WENT DOWN WITH MY BICYCLE OVER THE BRIDGE AND INTO THE RIVER."
SUDDENLY FALLING DOWN...
THAT BRIDGE

IKEDA...
INSIDE THE NOTEBOOK,
THERE WAS SOMETHING WRITTEN ABOUT TAMPERING WITH THE BICYCLE'S BRAKE.
DO THEY HAVE ANY CONNECTION?
...
IT'S A COINCI-DENCE ...
THEN,
WHY WOULD YOU FEEL UNEASY WITHOUT THE NOTEBOOK?
'I PROMISE YOU,'
'I WON'T CARRY OUT THE PLAN WRITTEN IN THERE.'
COULD...

COULD IT BE THAT THESE PLANS WERE WRITTEN BY SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR LIFE?
AND...
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY HAVE SUCH CHILDISH PLANS AND THOUGHTS...
THEN,
WHO...?
THESE CHILDISH STUPID PLANS,
IKEDA...
YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT THESE PLANS BY ACCIDENT.
YET YOU WERE IN SUCH A HURRY TO WRITE THEM DOWN IN YOUR NOTEBOOK?
YOU'RE RIGHT
I WANT HIM TO WATCH ME AVOID THEM

I JUST HAVE TO LEAVE THAT HOME FIRST
BEFORE ANY OF THESE STUPID THINGS CAN SUCCEED.
WHEN MY MOTHER BROUGHT HIM BACK HOME,
HE WAS A VERY GOOD PERSON.
SO HE'S DEFINITELY NOT SERIOUS ABOUT IT.
AS LONG AS I KEEP MY EYES OPEN UNTIL I GRADUATE, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.
IKE...
SNATCH
YOU'D BETTER NOT LODGE A REPORT WITH NO EVIDENCE, YOU'LL JUST GET LAUGHED AT
DON'T DISTURB ME, I JUST WANT TO GO ON
SO...

DON'T DESTROY MY FAMILY FOR SUCH A STRANGE REASON, KUNIYOSHI.
I PROMISED TO TALK WITH MY TEACHER AFTER SCHOOL ABOUT MY FUTURE PLANS,
CREAK
I'M OFF.
THAT'S ALL.
A SERIOUS EXPRESSION...

BUT...
IKEDA, GOROU
HE DIDN'T LIE.
IKEDA,
I...
I THINK YOU'RE WRONG
THAT KIND OF FAMILY...
DEFINITELY ISN'T A REAL FAMILY.
YOU'RE WRONG, IKEDA.
YOU'RE WRONG!

'GOROU,'
'IS GOING TO BE YOUR FATHER.'
AH.
THIS MAN HERE..'
I GOT TRICKED

HE H/S HIS CARING MOMENTS.
MOTHER!
GOROU
ARE YOU GOING HOME NOW?
YES.
UWAH, SUCH A BIG WATER-MELON.
YEP, I BOUGHT ONE WHOLE.
THE THREE OF US WILL E T THIS TOGETHER WHEN WE GET HOME.

AH,
FATHER ...
YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT ALL THESE MEANS, RIGHT!?
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW ALL THESE HAPPENED, BUT IKEDA KNOWS EVERYTHING ALREADY!
YET HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE YOU AND KEEPS SILENT ABOUT IT!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM,

EVEN IF I GET LAUGHED AT,
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!
IF IT'S TRUE...
NO,

IKEDA HE...

SO I HIT HIM BACK AS HARD AS I COULD, TOO.

USED A LOT OF STRENGTH TO HIT ME.

THE HAND USED TO HIT,

TREMBLED NONSTOP...

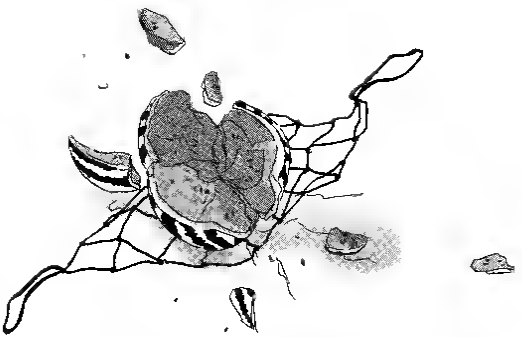
YET THEIR FLESH IS HARD,

HUMAN SKIN IS SOFT.

I...

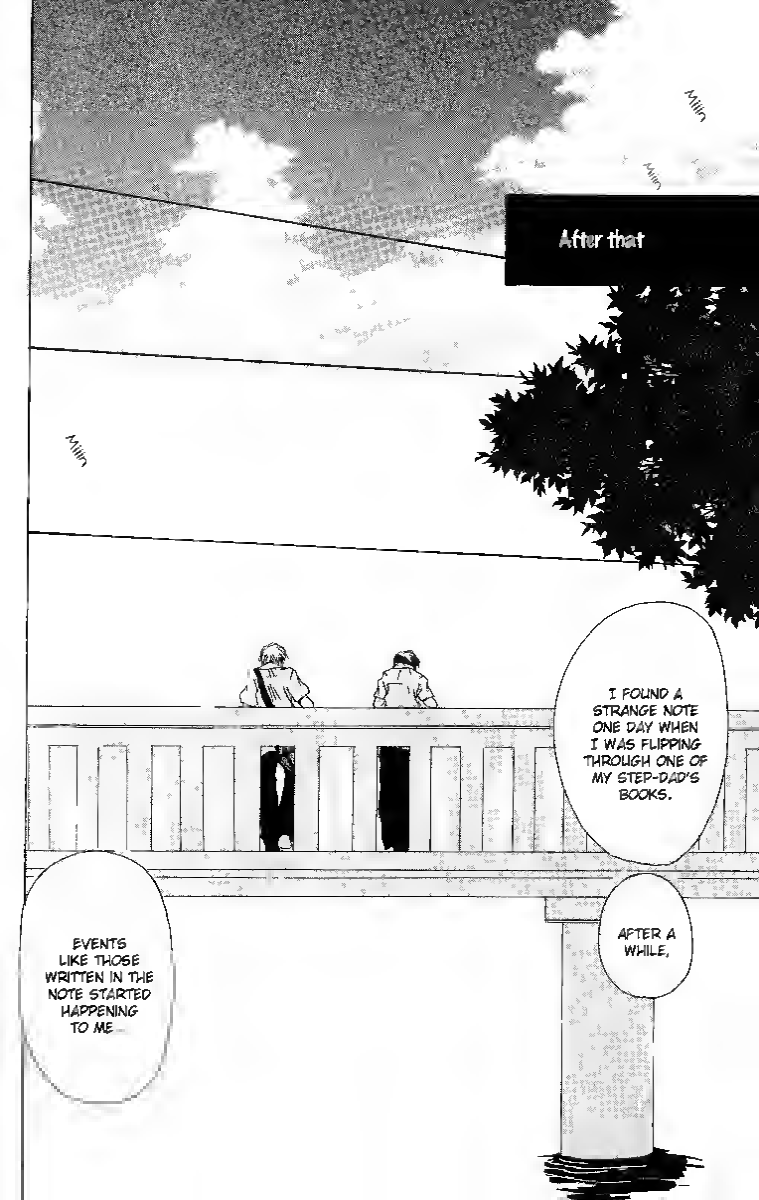
DESTROYED THAT IMPORTANT THING...

THAT IKEDA TRIED HIS HARDEST TO PROTECT.



'GOROU,'
'FROM TODAY ONWARDS,'
'THIS MAN HERE IS GOING TO BE YOUR FATHER.'
'WE WON'T BE LONELY ANYMORE.'
'OUR NEW FAMILY MEMBER.'
...LONELY?
MOTHER,

WHEN THE TWO OF US WERE TOGETHER,
DID YOU FEEL LONELY...?
MMM
MMM
MMM


After that
I FOUND A STRANGE NOTE ONE DAY WHEN I WAS FLIPPING THROUGH ONE OF MY STEP-DAD'S BOOKS.
AFTER A WHILE,
EVENTS LIKE THOSE WRITTEN IN THE NOTE STARTED HAPPENING TO ME...

IN THE END,
THAT'S ALL.
SO I QUICKLY WROTE DOWN WHAT I REMEMBERED IN MY NOTEBOOK
EVEN THOUGH WE NEVER FOUND OUT IF HIS STEP-DAD WAS THE ONE THAT HAD REALLY CARRIED OUT THOSE PLANS,
THEY DECIDED TO GET A DIVORCE.
IKE
...
YOU CAN JUST CALL ME IKEDA.
WHEN THEY MARRIED I DIDN'T CHANGE MY SURNAME, ANYWAY.
Sorry
Tears
Wah
BUT,
BECAUSE OF THAT, I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO SLEEP PROPERLY AGAIN..
EVEN THOUGH I LOST A FATHER,
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT NOW, I MIGHT BE A BIT CRAZY.

I GOT MYSELF MORE FRIENDS.
AH.
Sniff
MURO-ZONO,
SHE NOTICED WHAT WAS GOING ON, SO SHE WENT EVERYWHERE LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE
SHE LET OUT A SIGH OF RELIEF AND SMILED, SAYING 'MAYBE THIS IS FOR THE BEST'.

THEY CARED FOR EACH OTHER BUT YET IT CAUSED MISUNDER-STANDINGS
KUNIYOSHI,
IT IS QUITE DIFFICULT, TOO
TO THINK ABOUT OTHERS,
BECAUSE HE WAS TRYING TO CHERISH IT, SO HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD,
DID IKEDA'S MUM THINK THIS WAY?
IF SHE REMARRIED, THEN HER SON WOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE ADEQUATELY
EH!?
ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH MUROZONO?
NO, NOT REALLY
BUT,
WHO KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS?

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
SO HOT,

SLOWLY OPENING UP.
WHETHER IT'S A HUMAN HEART,
OR RELATION-SHIPS,
OR AWAITING THOSE SLEEPLESS NIGHTS,
EVEN THOUGH THERE MAY BE TIMES WHERE WE WOULD DROWN,
IS IT BECAUSE IT'S SUMMER?

TOMORROW WILL
ALWAYS BE FILLED WITH
PROMISING LIGHT...

I WANT TO KEEP
BELIEVING IN THAT.

ATSUI HIBI/END

Atsui Hibi

-Midorikawa Yuki

=Credits=

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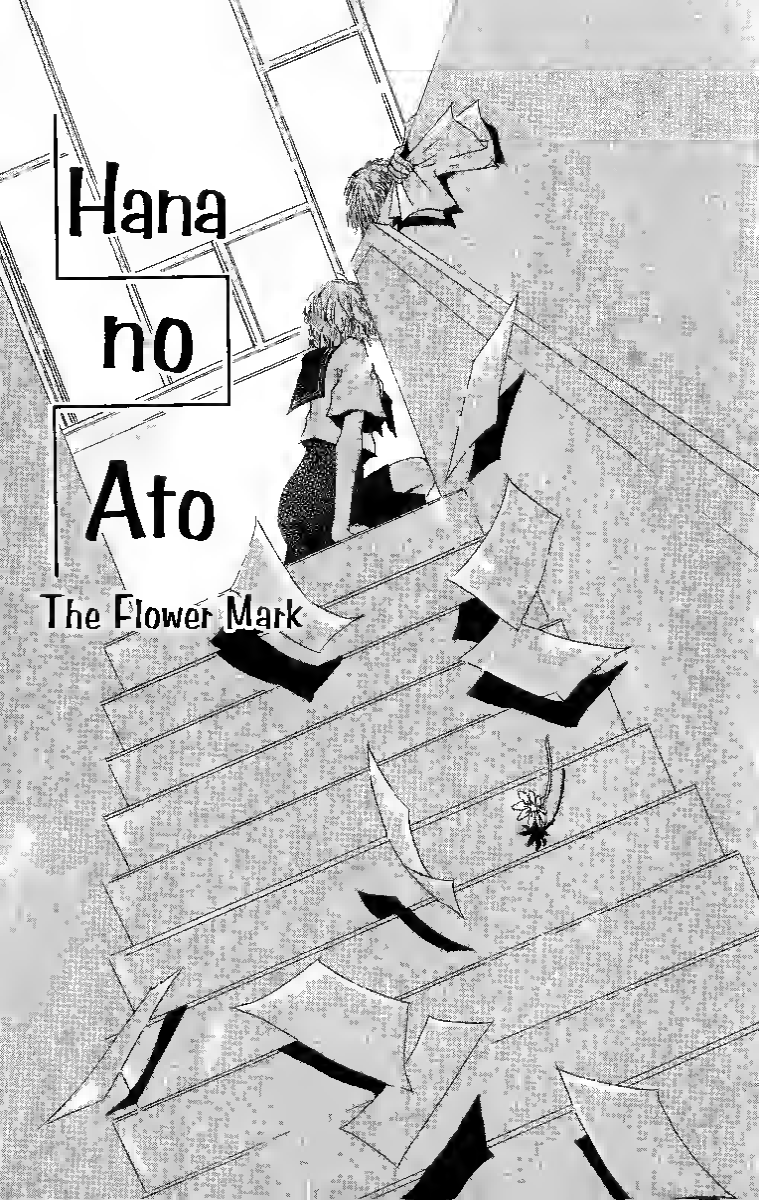

Hana
no
Ato
The Flower Mark

IT INCREASED AGAIN.
AH...
EH? WHAT INCREASED?

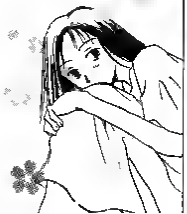
ALTHOUGH IT LOOKED SIMPLE, IT WAS IN A SHAPE I LIKED SO FOR SOME REASON I DIDN'T RUB THEM OFF
THE DRAWINGS WERE OF SOME FLOWERS
THE NUMBER OF DOODLES
RECENTLY WHEN I CAME TO SCHOOL I NOTICED SOME GRAFFITI ON MY TABLE

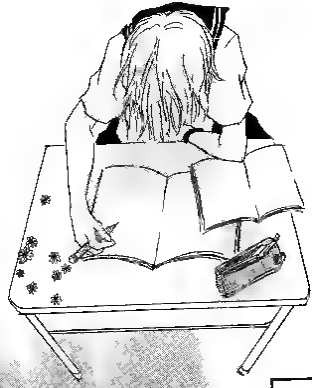
AND SOON THE NUMBER OF FLOWERS INCREASED
NEE, KIKUCHI, COULD THIS BE SOME SORT OF CONFESSION?
MM?
'Flower' = 'Love'?
...
ANYWAY, I THINK IT'S BEST TO JUST BE CAREFUL
WHO KNOWS, IT MIGHT BE SOMEONE TRYING TO IRK ME
I DON'T THINK IT'S A PRANK, SO YOU SHOULDN'T MIND IT TOO MUCH
!
AH, NEE, COULD IT BE
THANKS.
IS CLASS 2 HAVING GEOGRAPHY NEXT?
YEAH ...
THAT THE PERSON DRAWING ON YOUR TABLE DIDN'T KNOW THAT TABLE WAS YOURS

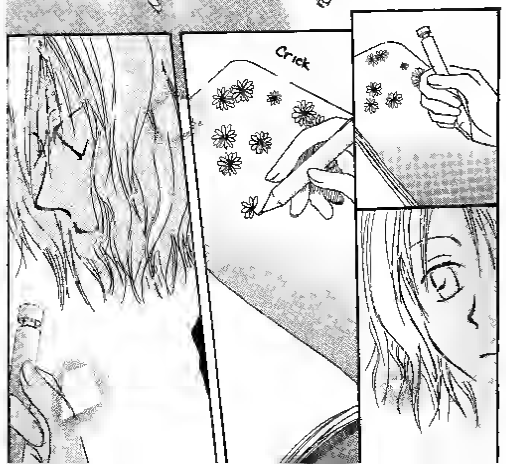
THE NIGHT CLASS!
THIS SCHOOL PROVIDES NIGHT CLASS LESSONS FOR PART-TIME STUDENTS
SOME STUDENTS FOR PERSONAL REASONS OR BECAUSE THEY ARE WORKING IN THE DAY COME TO THIS CLASSROOM FOR LESSONS A FEW NIGHTS PER WEEK
BECAUSE I JUST REMEMBERED THAT CLASS I'S CLASSROOM...
EH...
MAYBE HE COULD EVEN JUST BE DRAWING ON HIS OWN TABLE.
OH RIGHT!
AH!
AFTER A FEW DAYS
MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE COULD BE USING MY TABLE.
I KNOW CLASS I IS USED AT NIGHT...

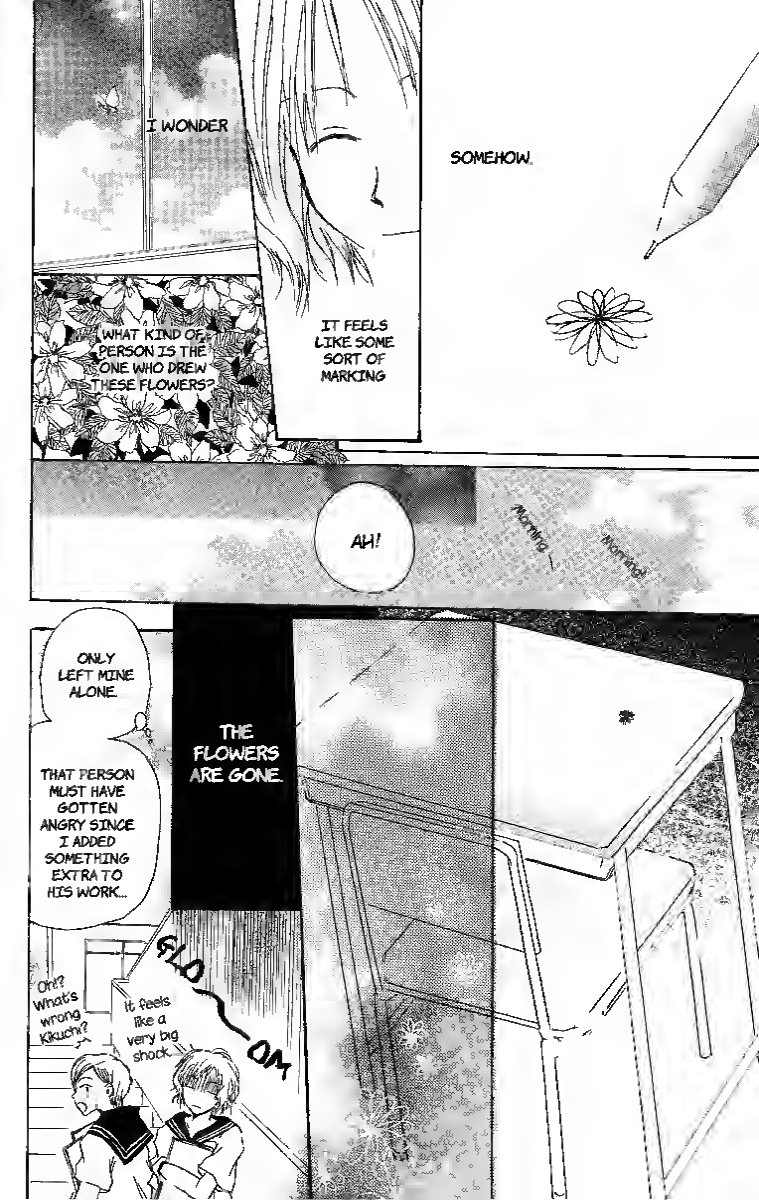
さてさて この短編集に
入っている 頃の三作品のは
それぞれ ちょっとした実験
をしております。
正直 いいますと「恋愛色」
のあるものは 描きて 描け
るのですが「恋愛モノ」を
柱とした作品は 描いた
ことが ありませんでした。
どちらかというと
人物達の心理を丁寧に
描写するより 設定と展開
の中で 彼らや彼女らが
いかに ふるまい そこで
ちらりと 何を こぼすか
のほうが やってみたい
方向性で ありまして
「恋愛モノ」を 私の力量で
やってしまうと モノローグに
ページを 取られ 展開を
けすうなければ ならなく
なることへの 恐れも
ありました。

しかし そういいわけして
なすなす 立ち向かわず
お茶を 濁しつづけて
きたのですが
ついに そのことに 大きく
ぶち あたってしまうことが
起きました。



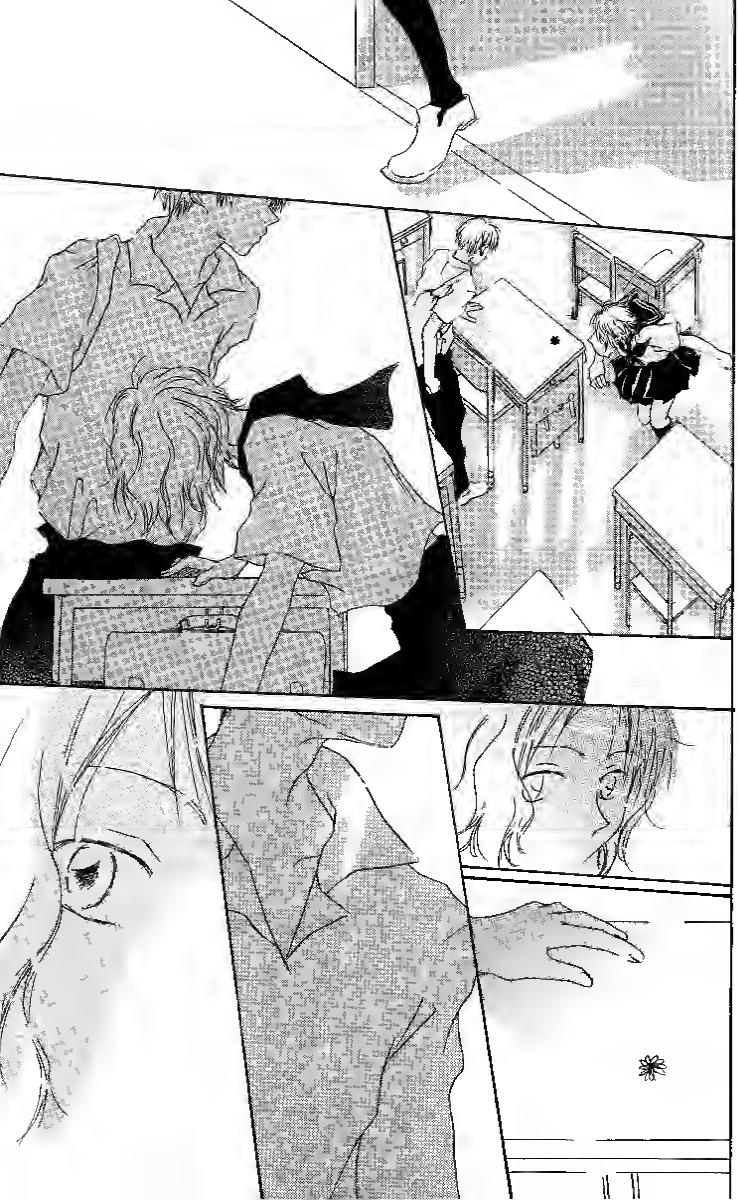





I WONDER
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THE ONE WHO DREW THESE FLOWERS?
IT FEELS LIKE SOME SORT OF MARKING
SOMEHOW.
AH!
Morning
Morning!
THE FLOWERS ARE GONE.
ONLY LEFT MINE ALONE.
THAT PERSON MUST HAVE GOTTEN ANGRY SINCE I ADDED SOMETHING EXTRA TO HIS WORK...
GLOOM
Oh!? What's wrong Kikuchi?
It feels like a very big shock...

I MADE A BLUNDER
BUMP
Whmp!
AH?
Sorry
WA!
KUNI-YOSHI!
S-SORRY!
THAT'S A LOT OF THINGS!
I WAS CALLED ON BY THE TEACHER TO HELP MOVE STUFF OUT OF THE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING
WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE HOME YET?
COM-MITTEE MEET-ING...
IT JUST ENDED, I'M GOING BACK NOW, SO LET ME HELP YOU.
TH NKS BUT IT'S ALRIGHT.
OH, YOUR BAG SHOULD STILL BE IN CLASS RIGHT? IF YOU DON'T HURRY, THE PART TIME STUDENTS WILL BE THERE SOON.
WAH!
IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE!
WHY DON'T I WALK YOU HOME?
It's already this late
IT'S ALRIGHT! THANK YOU ANYWAY.
See you
AAH!
WHAT AM I DOING...!
Run
run
run
Slide
Year 1 Class

MY TABLE...
GOOD EVENING.
GOOD EVENING ...
I'M SORRY, CAN I TAKE MY BAG?



ARE YOU THE ONE WHO DREW THOSE FLOWERS?
FLOW-ERS?
SOME-THING LIKE THIS.
I COPIED THIS FROM YOURS.
THIS IS YOUR TABLE?
I USE IT AT NIGHT.
SORRY FOR DIRTYING YOUR TABLE.
WAH! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
AH... YEAH I WAS THE ONE WHO DREW THOSE...
Really?
BEFORE YOU DREW THIS, I TOTALLY FORGOT THAT THIS TABLE ISN'T ACTUALLY MINE...
FORGOT...?
Though I too...

I NEVER RUBBED THEM OFF BEFORE AND EVEN COPIED THEM,
BECAUSE I THOUGHT THE DRAWINGS OF THOSE FLOWERS,
WERE REALLY BEAUTIFUL.
THANK YOU. I HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN A COMPLIMENT IN A LONG TIME.
BUT, THOSE AREN'T 'FLOWERS' OR 'DRAWINGS'
A SIGN?
NOPE.
WHEN I WAS SITTING ON THE CHAIR AND LOOKING DOWN, I SOMEHOW FELT THAT SOMETHING DROPPED ON THE TABLE.
IT STARTS UNFOLDING OUTWARDS FROM THE MIDDLE.
I HURRIEDLY TRIED TO COPY IT, BUT I COULDN'T MAKE IT,
SO I ONLY HAD THESE MARKS LEFT...
UNDER-STAND?

A FULL-TIME STUDENT?
ANYWAY IT'S JUST RANDOM DOODLES, BUT YOURS IS JUST DRAWING.
HAHA
SORRY,
URM...
BUT MINE AREN'T JUST 'DRAWINGS'
SHIKI
KURATA
THAT GIRL...
AH!
WAH! I'M SORRY, I'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
GOOD BYE

前3ックスの
"あかく咲く声"は
私のやりたい"ハッタリ"と
求められていて私も好き
になった"ニュアンス"と
いうものの バランスが
とれていたと思います。
なのでこれが終わると
決まった時 次作でもこの
バランスがとれるのか
かなり不安でした。
でもまた同じ比率で
描けば かなり同じ味に
なってしまうし その比率
だったから ダメだったのでは
と悩みました。
　ということで思いきって
ハッタリさんの「冒険モノ」
として設定を たてて
描きはじめた作品でありました。
それとその作品はやはり
「恋愛方向」が 重要として
大事な要素となり
せっかく冒険方向でやろう
としてたてた設定を
そっちへもって行かなければ
ならないというジレンマに
かなり苦しむことになり
ました。

AN UNCHANGING CLASSROOM.
AN UNCHANGING TABLE.
Bump
Wobble
Wait!
Whoa
Ahh!
Wobble
Kiku...
ARE YOU OKAY, KIKUCHI?
EH? YEAH...
BUT.
SO IT WAS A NIGHT PART-TIME STUDENT?
YEAH, A GUY WHO IS ROUGHLY THE SAME AGE AS US.
IS THAT SO.
SUCH A STRANGE FEELING.
THOSE...
THE PERSON WHO DREW THOSE FLOWERS WAS A GUY, HUH...
JUST DOODLES.
AREN'T FLOWERS OR DRAWINGS...

THAT WAS WHAT HE SAID
ARE YOU GOING BACK NOW?
I'M GETTING SUCKED IN...
KIKUCHI!
AH- WHY CAN'T THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF MY CLASS MAKE A CONCLUSION...
IT'S ALREADY DARK OUTSIDE...
CAN YOU HEAD OVER TO THE OLD BLOCK AND TELL KUNIYOSHI HE CAN GO BACK NOW? I MADE HIM CLEAN THE PLACE AS PUNISHMENT.
WHY IS MY HEART SO UNSTEADY?
IS IT BECAUSE IT'S DARK OUTSIDE THAT I HAVE AN UNEASY FEELING...
IT'S LIKE...
...

EH?
KUNIYOSHI ALREADY WENT BACK
KUNI-YOSHI ARE YOU HERE?
WHAT DID THE TEACHER..
Dokun
THE FULL-TIME STUDENT WHO DREW THE FLOWER..
EH, YOU'RE...

THAT VOICE... KURATA-KUN!?
GOOD EVENING.
GOOD EVENING.
THERE ARE TOO MANY COLOURS IN THE DAY, IT MAKES ME UNEASY AND TIRED.
IT'S DARK HERE, SO I CAN RELAX
WHEN I'M TIRED I ALWAYS COME HERE.
...
I'M KIKUCHI
ARE YOU WORKING?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THERE?
YEAH, BUT THAT'S QUITE RELAXING
...JUST,
...
I DON'T GET THIS GUY...

WHAT WERE NOT ABLE TO SEE ARE NOW ABLE TO SEE CLEARLY
...CAN I GO UP AND HAVE A LOOK?
JUST LIKE HOW EYES GET USED TO DARK AFTER A WHILE.
AS LONG AS WE TALK A BIT MORE THEN I CAN UNDERSTAND A BIT ABOUT HIM.
BUT..
I SEEM TO WANT TO UNDERSTAND HIM.
WON'T YOU BE AFRAID WHEN GOING HOME LATER?
EH, NO
IS THAT SO..
NO,
BECAUSE THERE'S A LOT OF JUNK HERE
GOOD BYE.

GOOD BYE...
...KIKU-CHI?
WAH! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?
You look bad!
A mess
KIKU.
NN?
EH? THE GUY WHO DREW THE FLOWERS IS KURATA?
YOU KNOW HIM!?
BECAUSE WE WERE IN THE SAME PRIMARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL
Kuriyoshi too
BUT...
THERE WAS THIS ARTIST WHO LIKED HIS DRAWINGS AND WANTED TO TEACH HIM DRAWING WHEN HE WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL YEAR 2,
IS THAT SO?
Oooh
EVEN THOUGH HE ACTED REALLY MATURE, HIS DRAWINGS ALWAYS EXCEEDED A NORMAL PIECE OF PAPER. IT WAS REALLY AWESOME
I REMEMBER HE WAS REALLY GOOD AT DRAWING

I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE ACTUAL REASON...
OR MAYBE IT JUST VANISHED.
YEAH, NOT SURE IF IT WAS BECAUSE HE HAD NO TALENT OR HIS TALENT DIED OFF,
...UNABLE TO DRAW?
BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, IT MADE HIM UNABLE TO DRAW ANYMORE.
BUT THERE WAS A RUMOUR THAT MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN HIM AND THE ARTIST'S FAMILY, SO MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE REALLY COULDN'T DRAW ANYMORE?
"MOREOVER, WITH HIS FAMILY'S FINANCIAL CONDITION, HIS FAMILY NEVER SUPPORTED HIM GOING DOWN THAT ROAD."
AND TO BE HONEST, AFTER THAT, HE SELDOM HUNG OUT WITH ANYONE.
"BECAUSE OF SO MANY THINGS,"
"MAYBE HE SUFFERED A LOT OF STRESS..."

THE SUN HAS SET...
NIGHT HAS ARRIVED.
DARKNESS IS VERY SOOTHING TO THAT PERSON.
EVEN TONIGHT THAT PERSON WOULD BE IN...
A SMALL, SMALL DARKNESS
AH.

CAN..
...
SURE.
CAN I SIT NEXT TO YOU?
Flutter
Flutter
ERM..
WHAT AM I DOING~?
THE BIRDS FLEW AWAY...
Was too reckless..
Sorry..
It's fine.
GETTING SURROUNDED TROUBLED ME.
WANT TO EAT?
I want one.
EH?
IT- IT'S ALRIGHT
ARE YOU WORKING NOW?
RESTING NOW... AH, TODAY'S A DAY OFF, RIGHT?
YEAH... EH?

ARE THOSE COLOURING MATERIALS?
YEAH, CHEAP STUFF.
THEN YOU'RE DRAWING SOMETHING NOW...?
AH, NO, HOW COULD I BE DRAWING.
I TAKE THE PAINT OUT... AND THROW IT AWAY.
EH?
EVEN THOUGH IT FEELS BAD,
THIS WAY,
"I HEARD HE COULDN'T DRAW ANYMORE."
EH, YOU KNOW KUNIYOSHI?
YEAH.
THERE IS THE DELUSION THAT SOME OF THE COLOURS IN MY BODY HAVE BEEN DIGESTED,
IT MAKES ME FEEL MORE RELAXED.
WHY DOES THAT GUY ALWAYS WEAR PANTS WITH SUCH A HIDEOUS PATTERN?
EH!?
PATTERN PANTS?
...HEARD HE RECENTLY GOT A GIRLFRIEND.
OH, YEAH.
HIS GIRLFRIEND IS REALLY LUCKY
YEAH.
WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY...?

...KIKUCHI -SAN,
YOU SHOULD BE GOING BACK NOW.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN.
BUT THERE'S NOT EVEN A CLOUD IN THE SKY...
SUCH A BIG CLOUD
AAH...
AFTER SEEING THAT...
IT GOT PUSHED TO THE SIDE...
SLOWLY...
THE COLOURS ON THE MOUNTAIN SIDE HAVE ALREADY STARTED CHANGING.
SLOWLY...
IT FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN.

WHAT IS IT?
...
HOW CAN WE GET KURATA-KUN'S TALENT BACK?
...
WHAT?

TO GET AWAY FROM THE DARKNESS...
DRAWING
HOPE
LIGHT...
I... DO NOT KNOW MY-SELF
ON WHAT TO DO?
HOW DO I FEEL?
EVEN THOUGH I'D RATHER GIVE UP AS IT FEELS EASIER,
BUT WHY IS IT SO PAINFUL?

I NEVER REALIZED THAT DISAPPOINTING SOMEONE WHO TRUSTED YOU... WAS SO SCARY...
...
YOU ONCE CALLED ME THE PERSON WHO DREW THE FLOWERS, RIGHT?
I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT PROPERLY, BUT.
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ONE I DREW AND THE ONE KURATA-KUN DREW?
THAT'S A FLOWER. AND IS A FLOWER.
IT'S A REALLY BEAUTIFUL 'DRAWING OF A FLOWER'.

...THANK YOU.
GOOD BYE.
...
I...
YE..H.
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN!

I'M SURE OF IT.
I HAVE PROBABLY BECOME
THAT GIRL WHO CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOUR SUFFERINGS RIGHT?
Crtch
BUT EVEN SO...

I STILL HAVE SOMETHING I REALLY WANT TO TELL YOU.
KURATA SAID BEFORE,
THAT WHEN HE SEES THE SKY, WIND OR JUST A ROAD, HE WOULD FEEL THAT A VERY POWERFUL FEELING IS COMING OUT OF HIM, IT MAKES HIM WANT TO CHANGE IT INTO SOME COLOUR OR IT WOULD START ACCUMULATING IN HIM
WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, HE COULD JUST DRAW THEM ON A PIECE OF PAPER,
BUT NOW, NO MATTER HOW MANY PIECES HE DRAWS, HE JUST CAN'T LET IT OUT
EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD COME OUT FROM..
THE EARS, NAILS, HAIR, SHOULDERS AND OTHER PLACES,
BUT IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH.
SO HE COULD ONLY DRAW DRAWINGS THAT CAN'T SEEM TO DIGEST THAT FEELING OF HIS.
ANYWAY,
MAYBE JUST A BIT..
FUFU..
UNDER-STAND?
EH?
URM ...
HE WOULD STILL BE SUFFERING.
NO MATTER WHAT,

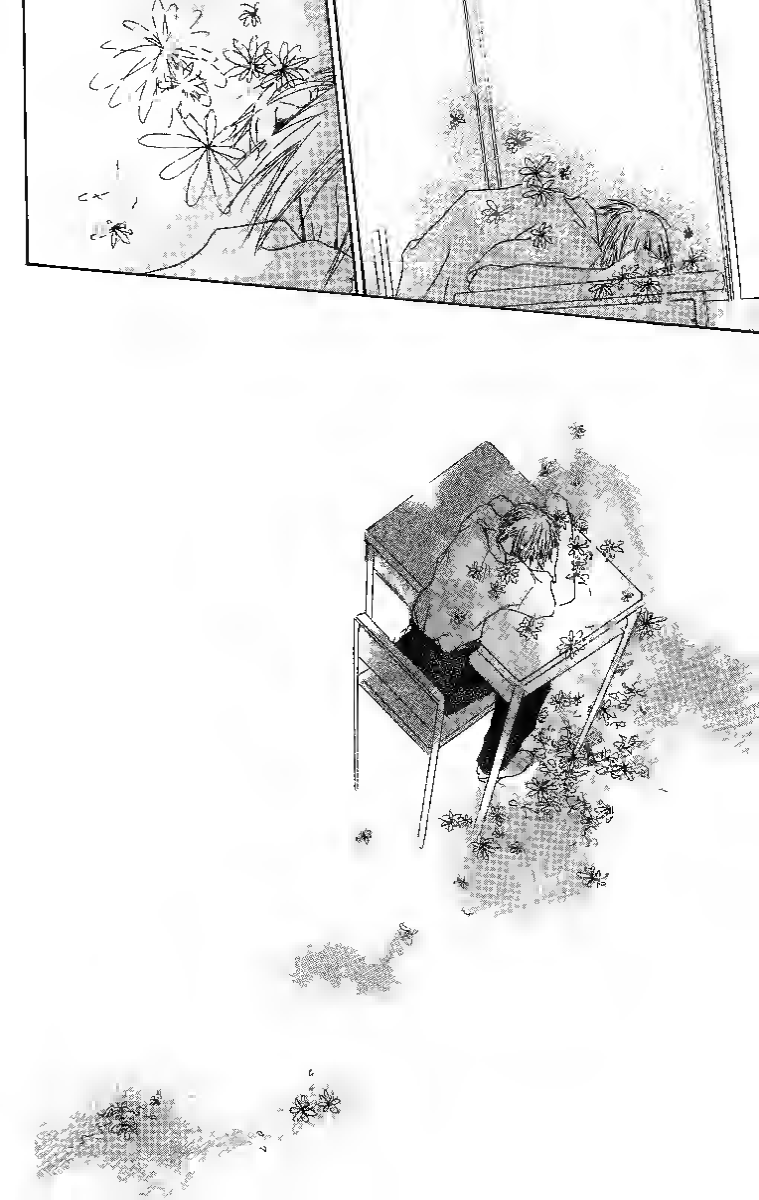
IF HE DOESN'T DRAW WOULD HE EVEN BE ABLE TO CONTINUE LIVING?
SO IS THAT WHY IT'S JUST DOODLES?
IF HE DOESN'T VENT IT OUT.
SUCH A COMPLI-CATED PERSON...
HIS HEART WOULD DEFINITELY BREAK.
BUT...

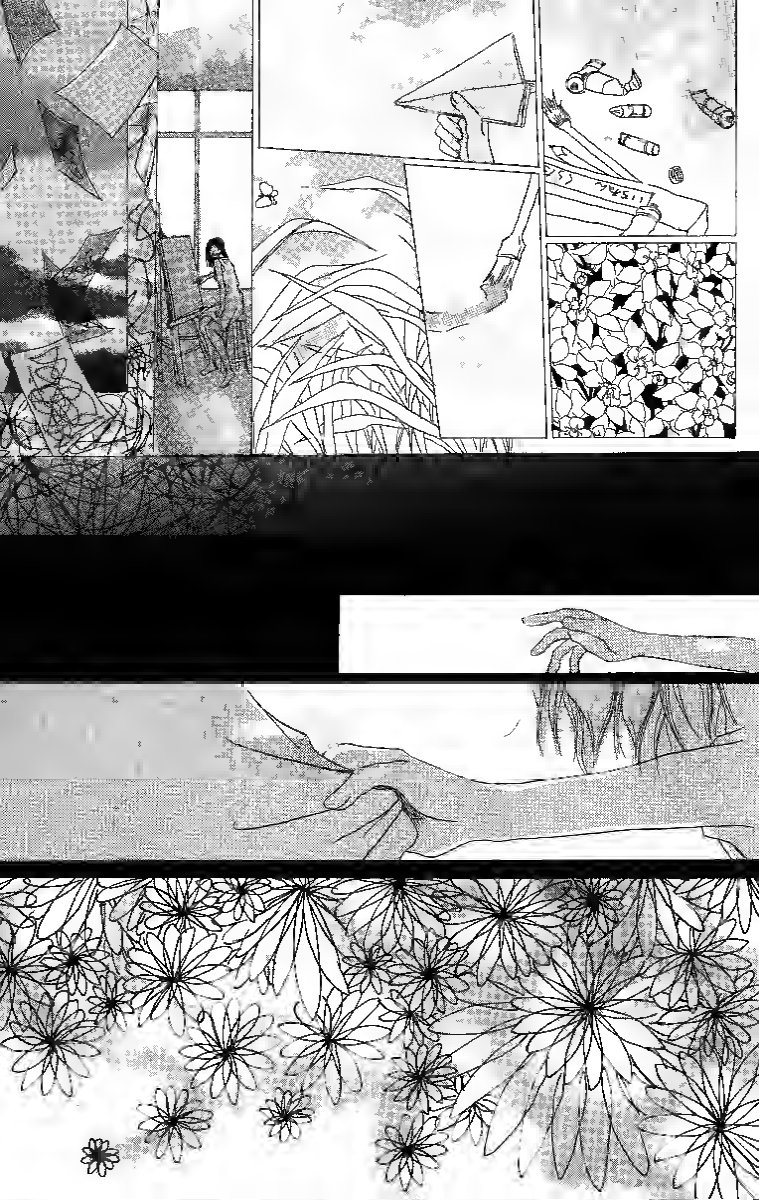
I WANT TO SEE HIM.
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE ONLY TALKED A FEW TIMES
EVEN THOUGH I STILL CAN'T SEE WHAT'S ACTUALLY GOING ON
BUT I'M REALLY ABSORBED BY THOSE "FLOWER" MARKS
I'VE ALREADY...
BEEN SUCKED IN BY HIM.

I LIKE HIM.

I like you
I like you
...KIKUCHI -SAN?

SO HOT...





I...

I GUESS THIS IS HOW IT ENDS

I DIDN'T MANAGE TO HELP HIM FIND AN EXIT.

IN THAT SMALL, SMALL DARKNESS.

IT'S LIKE SOME INSECT'S COCOON.
SO ONE DAY IT'LL DEFINITELY...
GO AFTER THE LIGHT.
AFTER THE FLOWERS.
KURITA-KUN WHOM ER...SED THE 'FLOWER' AND 'CONFESSION' OFF?
WAS IT...
AH, YEAH.
BECAUSE I CAN'T STAY HERE ANYMORE.
SO I BROUGHT IT ALONG WITH ME.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M LEAVING THIS PLACE TONIGHT
BECAUSE OF MY FAMILY.
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED LONG AGO.
THE 'FLOWER' AND THE 'CONFESSION' ARE ALREADY BURNT IN ME.
I HAD THOUGHT
NOTHING WORTH REMEMBERING IT FOR.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT NO MATTER WHERE I WENT IT WOULDN'T MATTER.
NO MATTER WHERE I WENT IT WOULD BE THE SAME.
THIS TOWN...

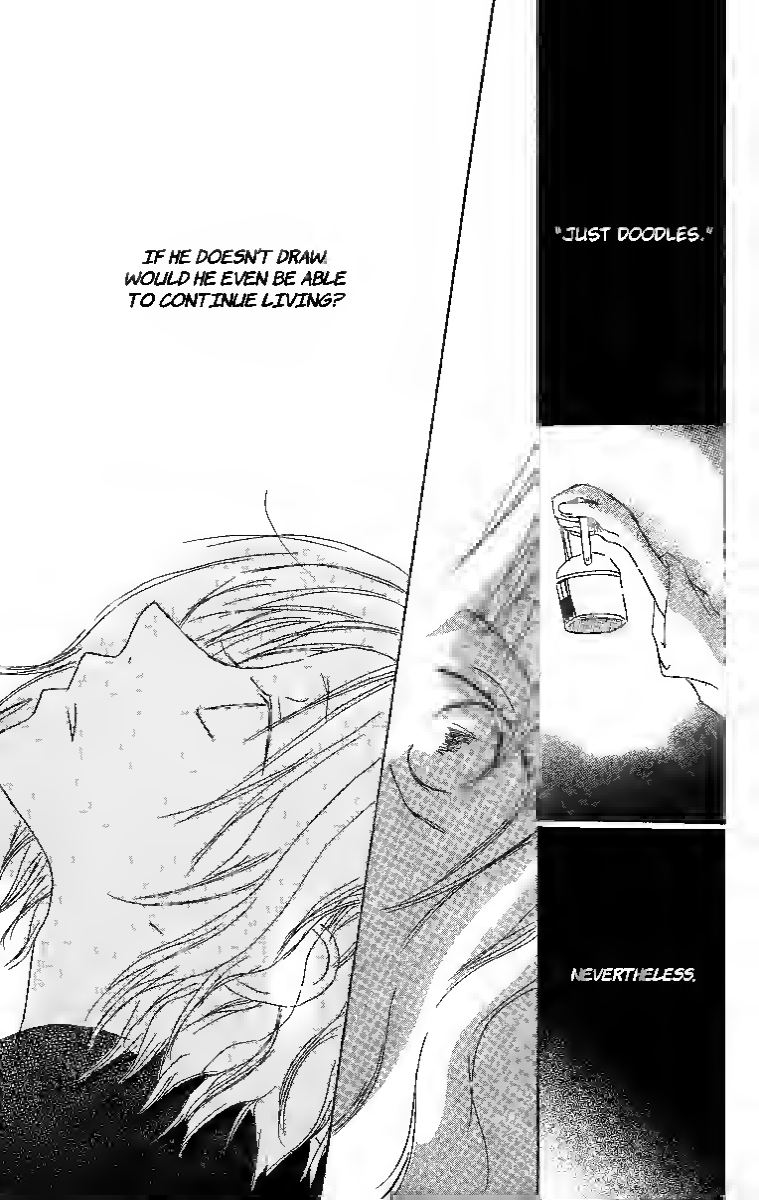
I'LL COME BACK AND SEE YOU,
ONE DAY I DEFINITELY WILL
I...
I CAN'T SEE YOUR FACE PROPERLY
CAN I TOUCH YOU?

THANK YOU...

A NEVER CHANGING CLASSROOM
A NEVER CHANGING TABLE
BUT THE FLOWER MARKS
AND THAT PERSON
HAVE ALREADY DISAPPEARED.
"AFTER YOU LEAVE"
"ERM"

"CAN I GO HAVE A LOOK AT THE ATTIC?"
"THERE REALLY IS ONLY RUBBISH THERE."
"AH... BUT THERE IS ONE THING..."
Lift
"THAT COULD BE A TREASURE."
THE CEILING IS LOW
REALLY DARK...
REALLY A MESS.
AN EMPTY COLOUR TUBE...

IT'S REALLY LIKE A LEFTOVER COCOON!
WHERE
DID THE COLOUR INSIDE GO?
"HOW COULD IT BE DRAWING"
"IT STARTS UNFOLDING OUTWARDS FROM THE MIDDLE."
I FELT SOMETHING DROPPED DOWN.
Gr96
"IT ISN'T A DRAWING."


IF HE DOESN'T DRAW,
WOULD HE EVEN BE ABLE
TO CONTINUE LIVING?
"JUST DOODLES."
NEVERTHELESS,

"THERE IS ONE THING..."
"AH..."
"BUT..."
"THERE REALLY IS ONLY RUBBISH THERE."

Drip
Drip
THE FLOWER MARK/END

Atsui Hibi

-Midorikawa Yuki

=Credits=

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COLD DAY LIKE BEFORE (SAMUI HI MO)
I-
IKEDA-SENPAI!
YOU'RE THE FIRST YEAR, TOOYAMA, RIGHT?
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY OUR HOUSES ARE IN THE SAME DIRECTION I RIDE A BIKE SO I'LL HELP YOU TAKE SOME OF THOSE.
EH! BUT...
I'll take this and this
I'LL BE GOING TO WORK SOON
I'LL JUST PUT IT AT THE ENTRANCE ON MY WAY, ALRIGHT?
YES
It's that big house right?
UWAH, THAT'S A LOT OF THINGS
WELL, SEE YOU.

I THE NAIVE TOOYAMA HINAKO
AT THE BEGIN-NING OF SUMMER...
...
weak
weak
HAS FALLEN IN LOVE
AND FROM THAT POINT ONWARDS I'VE BEEN IN A TRANCE...
WHETHER IT'S A RAINY DAY
OR A WINDY DAY
OR EVEN A SUNNY DAY
I'LL BE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR IKEDA-SENPAI'S SHADOW
THERE ARE A LOT OF GIRLS WHO ADMIRE HIM
PLEASE DON'T GET A GIRLFRIEND SENPAI
SENPAI ALWAYS SMILES GENTLY
AS IF HE BELONGED TO EVERYONE
DON'T BELONG TO JUST ONE PERSON.

Cold Day Like Before

寒い日も。

KUNIYOSHI, MUROZONO,
ARE YOU TWO DATING?
AH?
HM?
NO WAY WOULD I HAVE ONE
Stop squeezing over-
Hoo
OH, MMM,
THEN,
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND KUNIYOSHI?
...
NO, I DIDN'T MEAN THAT...
YOU'RE NOT HAPPY, IKEDA?
NOPE, WHY'D YOU SAY THAT?
AH BECAUSE YOU TWO SEEMED TO BE TALKING RATHER HAPPILY.

COLD DAY LIKE BEFORE
CAN I?
...NO?

THERE'S STILL TIME BEFORE WORK STARTS..
IKEDA!
KUNI-YOSHI
WHERE'S MURO-ZONO?
BOTH OF US FELT A BIT AWKWARD, SO WE DECIDED TO TALK ABOUT IT TOMORROW
HAHA
MUROZONO IS REALLY SOMETHING
.YOU GOT TIME? WANT TO GRAB A BOWL OF RAMEN?
DIDN'T YOU JUST EAT THAT SWEET THING WITH A HOLE IN THE MIDDLE?
IKEDA.
MM?
OH!
I'M IN!
COME WITH ME, MY TREAT!

IT'S GETTING COLDER.
AH, RIGHT,
IT'LL GET LONELIER EVEN SOONER.
THE SUN WILL START SETTING EARLIER...
GOOD MORNING, IKEDA-SENPAI!
AH, TOOYAMA,
MORNING.
...
AL-RIGHT!

GLOO
IS THAT SO. .
ROSE COLOURED COUNCIL MEETING TURNED GRAY IN A FLASH..
EH?!
THAT ...
Sorry starting today Nishimura will be replacing me
AH, I'VE TAKEN UP MORE PART-TIME JOBS, SO I QUIT THE COMMITTEE
I HEARD TODAY'S COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE SECOND COUNCIL ROOM.
AAH. THIS SMILE!
COME TO THINK OF IT DID HIS PARENTS DIVORCE RECENTLY..?
Is that why he has to work?
TOOYAMA, ARE YOU WEARING CONTACTS TODAY?
EVEN THOUGH GLASSES REALLY SUIT YOU, THIS LOOK OF YOURS IS GOOD, TOO. IT HAS A REFRESHING FEELING
I-I'LL BE LEAVING NOW!!
PUNI
Ah..?
Doki
Damn it~
Doki
Doki
Doki
IKEDA-KUN!
Uh oh, was that sexual harassment..?

設定と人物達に想い入れ深かったけれ
その作品を描き終わった時 はじめて創作を鉄が減退してしまいました。
ハゲカシなる5 カンも狂ってしまったかとでした。
////3

と同時に 本当の事も少女マンガを描きつづけたいのならば これはもう「やつ」と一度本気で戦わねばと奮起するキッカケになりました。
新担当様にそのことについて相談にのって頂いて なにかめきめきやる気がもどってきたことも大きな原因となりました。

まず カンを取りもどすためにも 戦う戦らないは別にして 描き勝手に1本 描かせて頂くことにしました。ただ 話がてかくならないよう「不思議なしょ」と「日常を描く」という条件にして取りくみました。
そうしてできたのが1本目「アツイヒビ」です。
すごく楽しかったです。美形がいなかったり段取りが踩かだったりしているのですが3 マンガを描く楽しさを痛感しました。

AAAH! WHY DO I ALWAYS ACT WITHOUT THINKING~!!
Ah, such a runny face!
I'm getting angry with myself!
Grrr
I'M FINE, HURRY AND HEAD OVER TO KUNIYOSHI, HE MUST BE WAITING FOR YOU.
SUDDENLY BLURTING SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
MAKING IKEDA-KUN LEAVE EARLY...
IT'LL BE GREAT IF IT WORKS OUT
Step Step
AH!
IKEDA -SAN.
YEAH.

THAT ISN'T WHAT I REALLY WANTED,
WHAT I REALLY WANT,
I CAN NEVER HAVE.
EH..
HAHA, IT'S NOTHING. WHAT IS IT, TOOYAMA?

...WHY WAS IT THAT EVEN IF IT WAS JUST FOR A SHORT WHILE.
I SUDDENLY FELT A SENSE OF FEAR TOWARD HIM...
AH, THIS..
...GOOD IT'S THE USUAL SENPAI!
SAID THOSE WORDS...
AS SENPAI...
OH...?
SO YOU TWO DECIDED TO START D..TING...
WHAT DID THEY MEAN
WELL I'M SORRY! IT'S BEAUTY AND THE FOUR-EYES GETTING TOGETHER!
...OH,
SUCH A FITTING COUPLE
I'M A PLAIN AND SHY BUT KIND OF COOL GUY!
He didn't have to say it to that extent
You hungry?
I have a lolicon complex anyway!

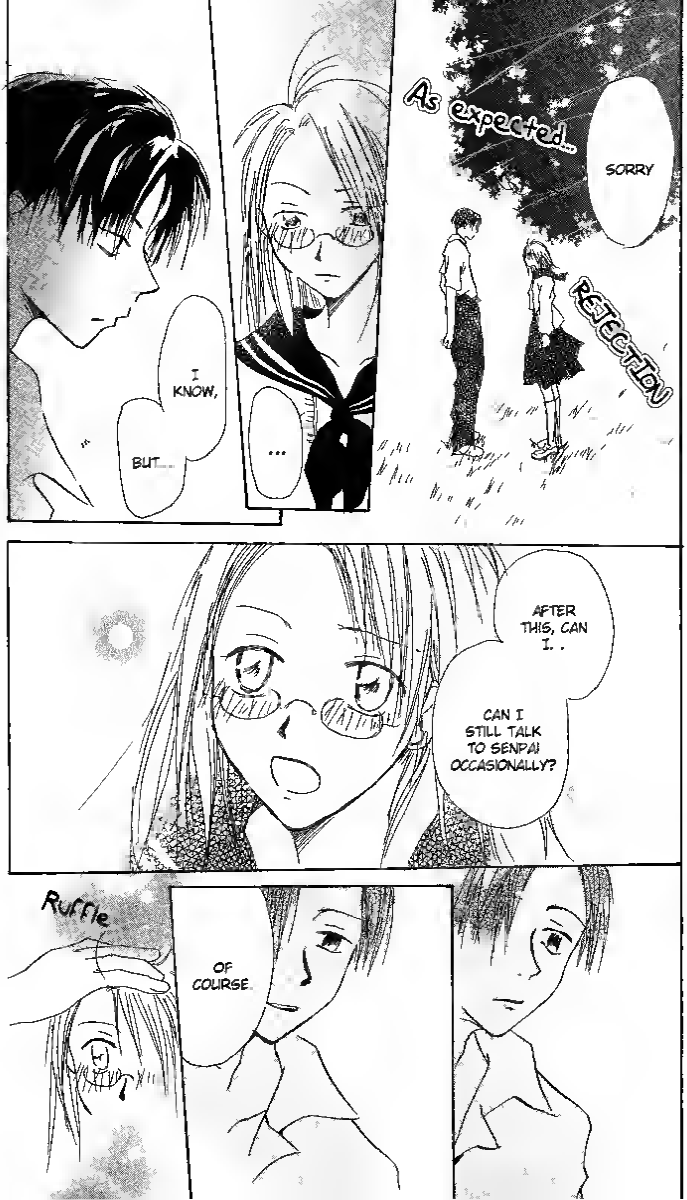
「アツイヒビ」で 好きに
描かせて 頂いたので
おれもかねて 次こそ
挑戦せねばと 創ったのが
「花の詩」です。
少なくとも 女のコが
男の子に ひかれていく
ということを 柱にした
話創りをしてみました。
。それと よく抽象的
ですねと言われるので
どこら辺の表現まで
わかって頂けるだろう
という点にも 挑戦
してみました。
なので いまいちピンと
こなかった方と 色々
感じてくれた方に
別れた作品のようです。
難しかったけれど この
作品も とても楽しんで 創
ることが できました。
しかし 恋愛指分が まだ
あと少し足りないようでした。
あと一押しです!
つぁー

この花が なんの 料理
でした。

Chirp
Chirp
Tooyama
Ah!
Daze
NEWS-PAPER..
NEWS-PAPER..
You didn't change before sleeping again mum
I'M OFF...
Handkerchief handkerchief
Watch, watch
Run
Run
WAH!
IKEDA-SENPAI, YOU'RE GOING TO SCHOOL ALREADY?!
MORNING, TOOYAMA.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO WORK ALREADY?!
THIS IS QUITE THRILLING
YOU'RE OVER-WORKING YOUR-SELF!

I WANT ONE.
THIS IS SUCH A NICE HOUSE.
YOUR HOUSE IS REALLY BIG..
A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
In another perspective.
NOW, I JUST WANT TO EARN A LOT OF MONEY
...IF YOU MARRY ME, THEN MAYBE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE IT...
I REALLY WANT TO SAY THIS!
SEE YOU!
SEN...
AH!
Arghh— I really feel like sleeping!
Dush
Oh well, good enough that I can see you.
AH!
Wobble
Wobble
Wobble
Wobble
Falls
He saw me in such weird clothes..
IS THE PAPER HERE YET?
SENPAI..

I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES!!
OOOH!! I'M GOING TO CONFESS!!
...
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU REALLY WANT?
Copying Ikeda's determination
EVEN IF HE DOES REJECT ME WITH A SMILE.
!!
Oh!
I'll help you pick up your pieces!
Good luck Kinnosuke!
I'M REALLY HAPPY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, BUT I'M REALLY BUSY.
I DON'T REALLY THINK I CAN THINK ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING.
SORRY.


As expected...
SORRY
REJECTED
I KNOW,
BUT...
...
AFTER THIS, CAN I. .
CAN I STILL TALK TO SENPAI OCCASIONALLY?
Ruffle
OF COURSE.

TOOYAMA IS REALLY STRONG.
WHY IS IT THAT NO MATTER WHAT
EVER SINCE I FIRST FELT A SENSE OF FEAR TOWARDS SENPAI.
THE SMILE SENPAI ALWAYS HAS
SEEMED LIKE IT HAD SOME OTHER MEANING TO IT...

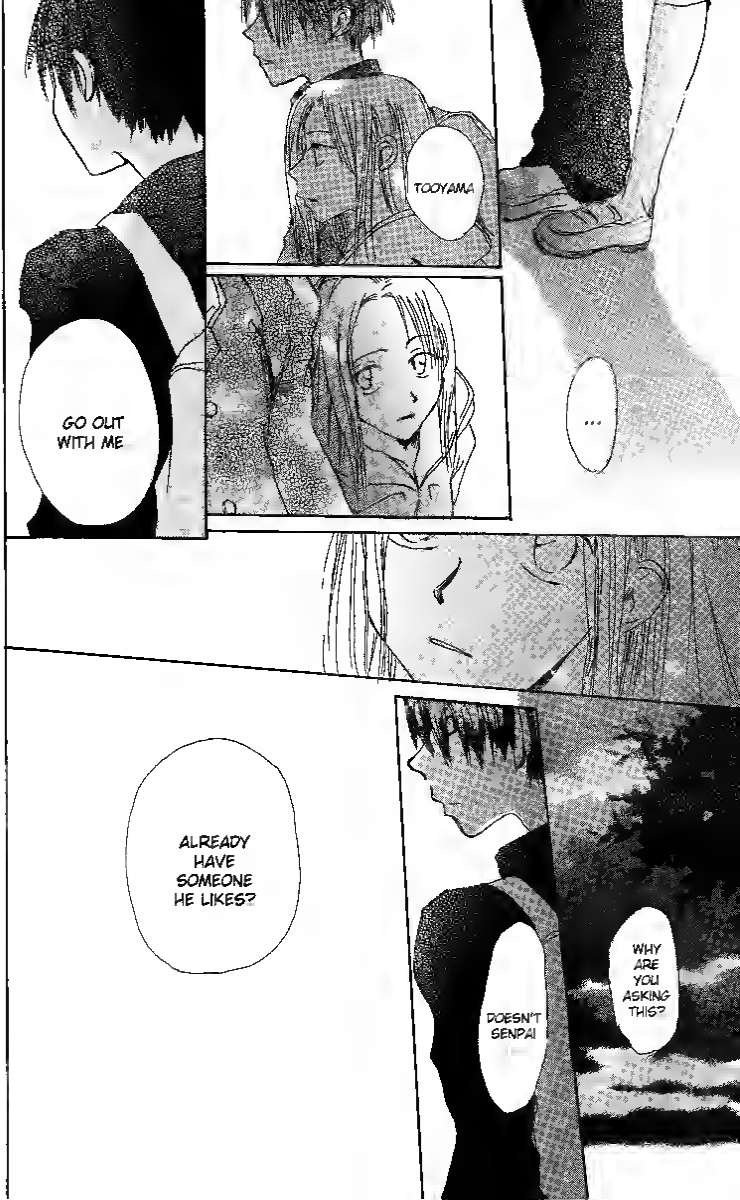
MY CHEST REALLY HURTS
EVEN IF SENPAI IS STILL SMILING
SO
Arts Festival
Rabbit House
"YOU!"
"LOOKING DOWN ON ME, HUH!"

"YOU THINK I'M STUPID, I'M WEAK!"
JUST TEN MORE MINUTES TILL RECESS, HANG IN THERE
Are you awake?
NAKANO TOO WAKE UP~
OGATA
Ye-s
...DA!
AWAKE
IKEDA!
I WAS TOO CARE LESS...
"Because of this, the north and south town magistrates are different."
Fl...
...
IKEDA -KUN...

MURO-ZONO
LONG TIME NO SEE YOU'VE BEEN BUSY LATELY?
SORT OF, HOW'S KUNI-YOSHI?
HE'S BEEN ASKED TO CLEAN OUT THE OLD BLOCK SO HE'S QUITE BUSY.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, IKEDA-KUN? I HEARD YOU DOZED OFF IN CLASS
I DID?
Did I...
FUFU, THIS MEANS A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOU
TAKE OUT YOUR HAND
DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT I SMUGGLED THESE OUT FROM THE TEACHER'S OFFICE.
I HEARD EATING SWEETS WHEN YOU'RE TIRED IS THE BEST TREATMENT
...TWO?
ONE IS MINE,
WE'RE BOTH ACCOM-PLICES.

MUROZONO -SENPAI?
OH I KNOW. SHE HAS A SWEET VOICE. SHE'S REALLY CUTE, TOO
SHE'S REALLY POPULAR AMONG THE MALE FRESHMEN
...
BUT RECENTLY,
I HEARD SHE'S DATING A PERSON NAMED KUNIYOSHI-SENPAI.

IKEDA-SENPAI!
TOOYAMA
CAN I WALK WITH YOU?
SURE
SURE HAS GOTTEN COLD
AH, I GUESS IT'S ABOUT TIME I TAKE OUT THE OVERCOATS


TOOYAMA
GO OUT WITH ME
...
ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE HE LIKES?
DOESN'T SENPAI
WHY ARE YOU ASKING THIS?

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T BE WITH THE PERSON YOU REALLY LIKE...
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS ABOUT ME AT ALL!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
TOOYAMA
DO YOU REALLY LIKE ME?

!
SLAP!
SE...
SO SCARY!
?!
SENPAI, STOP...
SLAP

IT DOESN'T HURT ONE BIT.
I'M ALREADY USED TO THIS, IT'S NOTHING TO ME...
STOO-OOP!!
!!
I SAID...

...
...
...
Run
Spit
WHAT A BIG JERK!
WHAT A JERK!

I FELL IN LOVE WITH A JERK.

HURTS SO MUCH...
AH, IT'S IKEDA-SENPAI. YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE AFTER HIM AS MUCH ANYMORE, TOOYAMA.
REALLY?
PART-TIMING, HUH?
SENPAI IS REALLY HARD AT WORK.
HE ALWAYS LIVED WITH ONLY HIS MOTHER.
HE THOUGHT THAT AFTER HIS MOTHER REMARRIED HE COULD HAVE A FATHER. BUT THE FATHER TURNED OUT TO BE A BAD MAN.
SO THEY DIVORCED IN THE END.
...BAD MAN?
A GAMBLER AND A DRUNK,
HEARD SENPAI GOT ABUSED, TOO.
I GUESS SENPAI IS WORKING NOW TO PAY OFF THAT GUY'S DEBT.
BECAUSE EVEN IF THAT MAN WAS BAD, TO SENPAI,
THEY WERE A FAMILY ONCE.
IKEDA,
HAVE YOU BEEN AVOIDING US RECENTLY?
HUH?

DON'T BE SO CONCEITED, I'VE BEEN BUSY.
IS THAT SO?
HAaa—
SO WHITE.
IKEDA
HM?
I'M NOT UNDER ANY POSITION TO SAY THIS BUT,
NO MATTER HOW STRONG A FEELING OR BOND IS,
IT MAY STILL BREAK
EVERYBODY TRIES THEIR BEST TO CHERISH IT
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND SOMETHING THAT WILL NEVER BREAK.
THERE IS NEVER A RELATIONSHIP THAT DOESN'T HURT.
SO NO MATTER WHAT..
NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU SEARCH,

Pant
Shuffle
FATH-
IKEDA-SENPAI!!

SE-SENPAI ...
Haa
ARE YOU ALRIGHT ...?
Haa
Haa
Haa
run
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...
...
NOTH-ING
...
GOOD BYE..

PUH!
HAHA!
WHAT
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

COLD DAY LIKE BEFORE

GIRLS REALLY SHED TEARS SO EASILY
SENPAI, I...
I STILL LIKE SENPAI
EVEN IF HE'S A JERK
EVEN IF HE WAS HURT BEFORE
EVEN THOUGH I'M PROBABLY LIKE A THORN IN SENPAI'S FLESH,
BUT ONE DAY,
I'LL DEFINITELY MAKE YOU REALLY WANT ME!
AND YOU WILL DEFINITELY HAVE ME!

"AH!"
RUN
...
...
...
PARDON ME...
Ikeda
"GOOD EVENING, PLEASE COME IN, MOTHER ISN'T BACK YET."
"IT MUST BE REALLY COLD OUTSIDE."
"...AH, NO, I'LL JUST WAIT OUT HERE."
"HAA..."
"THE STARS HAVE APPEARED."
"BUT..."
"AH, TONIGHT IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL. GOROU-KUN, LOOK, THE STARS!"

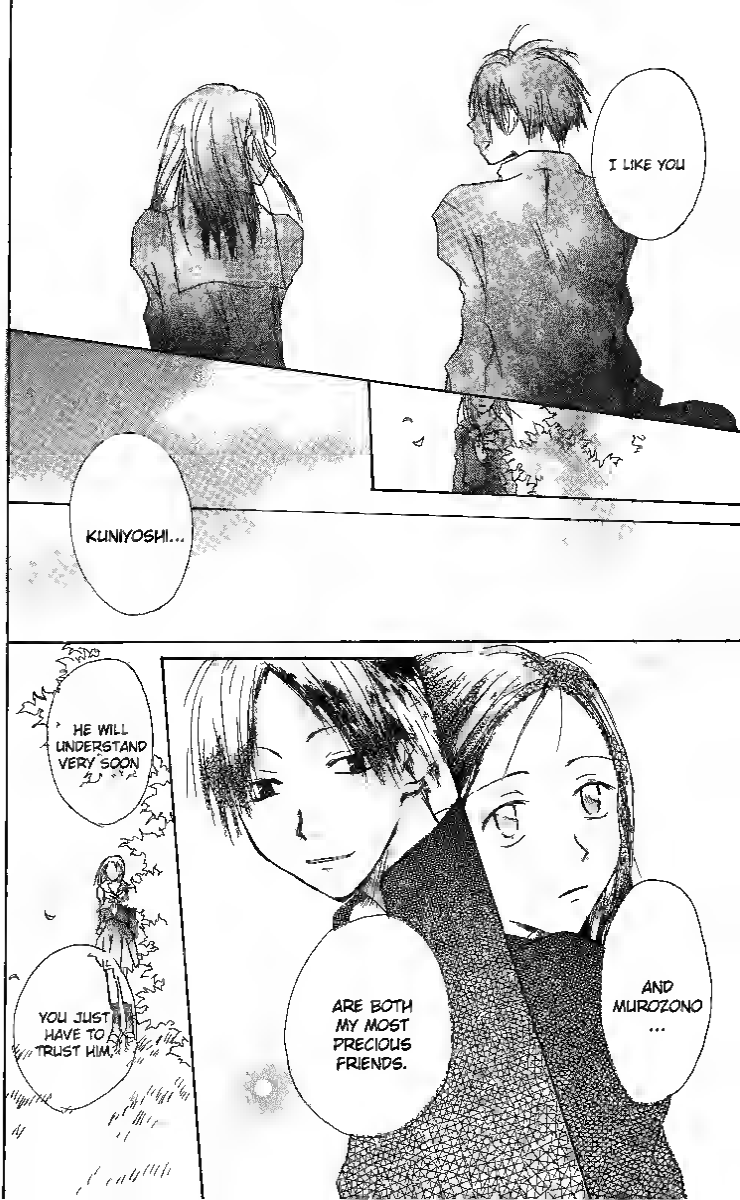
"I WILL DEFINITELY CHERISH..."
"I WILL DEFINITELY CHERISH THE BOTH OF YOU."
SO...
SO COLD...
SO SLEEPY...
GOOD!
Hoo
Chirp
Chirp
GOOD MORNING! IKEDA-SENPAI!
...
ERM, I HAVE EARLY PRACTICE TODAY...
CAN I WALK WITH...
CAN YOU...
...
...

I REALLY CAN'T STAND YOU, TOOYAMA
YOU DIDN'T LEARN AT ALL.
Drip
!
I'm not crying at all!
THIS IS WHAT WE CALL SWEAT FROM THE HEART...
N-NO! THIS...
Ha!
...
Rub
Rub
PARDON ME...
Run
EH?
AH...
I'LL GO WASH MY FACE BEFORE GOING TO SCHOOL!
PLEASE GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME!
...

SENPAI...
SENPAI...
ONLY I LIKE YOU
EVEN THOUGH I WISH YOU WOULD LIKE ME TOO.
BUT ONLY I LIKE YOU
2 , 3
Yo! IKEDA,
YOU HAVE PANDA EYES!
Lend me your text book!
I WAS JUST BORN WITH AN INSOMNIAC LOOK.
WHEN YOU'RE TIRED YOU SHOULD EAT SWEETS
Open
TAKE YOUR HAND OUT.
WAS IT BECAUSE OF THIS GUY...
CHOOSE ANY TYPE YOU LIKE.
...
...
CAN I TAKE TWO?
GO AHEAD!

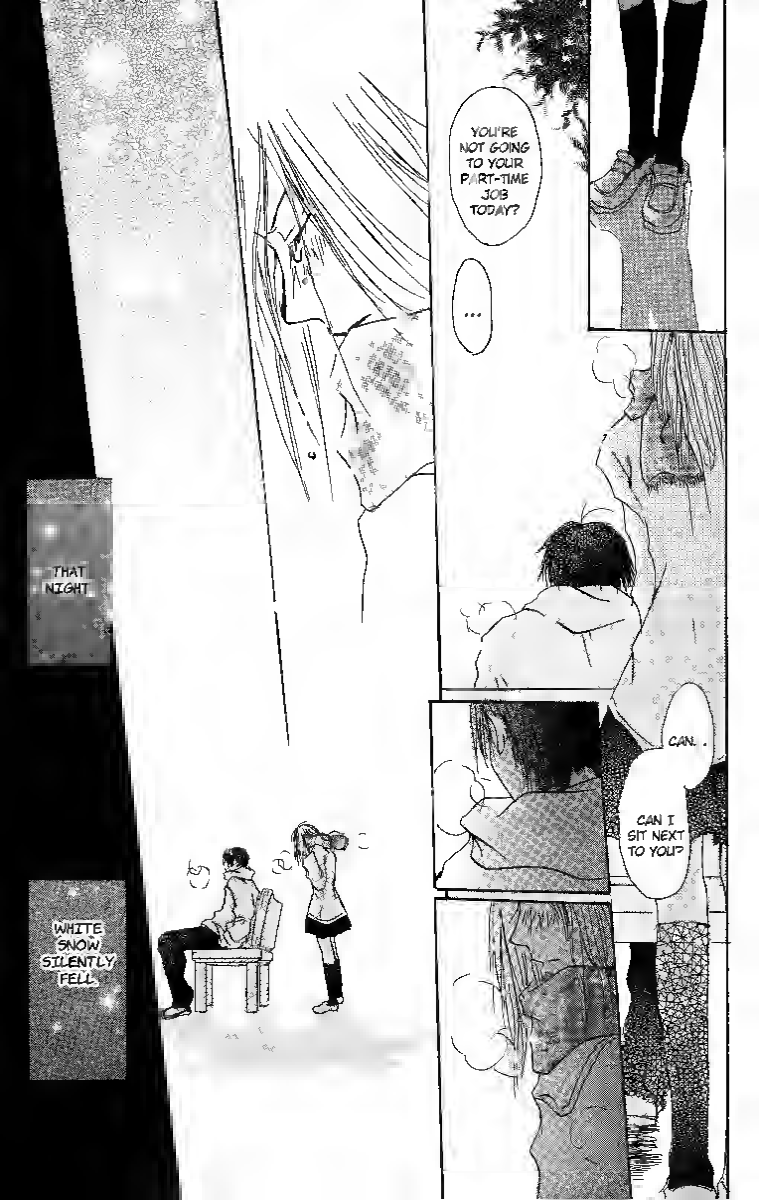
IT'S COMPLICATED. WE CAN'T SEEM TO COMMUNICATE PROPERLY, AND THERE ARE MORE AND MORE THINGS WE DON'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT EACH OTHER
Is this the time to be feeding me?
WHAT?!
MM. . . WE'RE IN A FIGHT NOW
HOW ARE THINGS WITH YOU AND MURO-ZONO?
I'LL GIVE ONE TO TOOYAMA.
BUT, I ALREADY CAN'T LEAVE HER.
I WANT TO BE WITH HER FOREVER
I WANT TO MOVE FORWARD WITHOUT LOOKING BACK.
Zzz
IKEDA-SENPAI SEEMS TO HAVE RUN TO THE BACK OF THE SCHOOL COMPOUND
I HOPE SHE'LL BE WITH ME.
AH, TOOYAMA!
THE BACK?
YUP
...

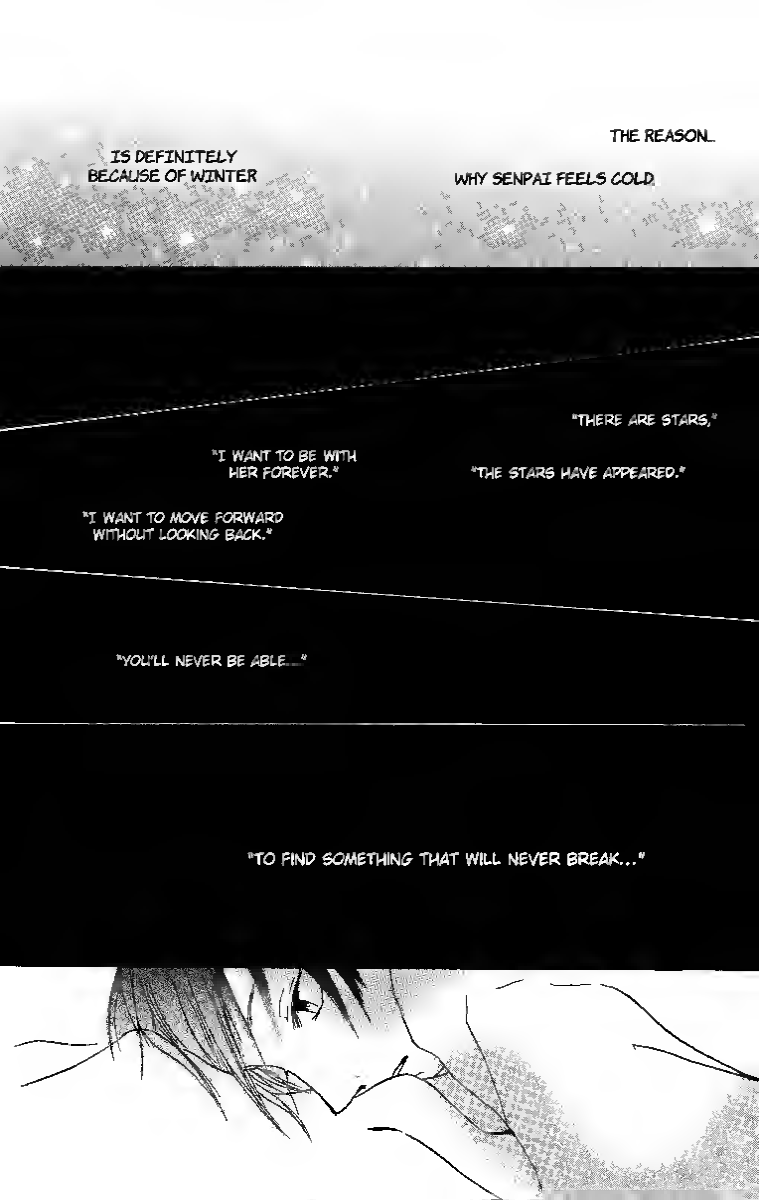
I'LL GO HAVE A LOOK
WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON.
MUROZONO!
IKEDA-KUN.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YEAH...
I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO KUNIYOSHI...
I WAS THE ONE WHO THOUGHT WE WOULD FALL APART.
THIS IS RARE, IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT AT EASE WITH?
...IT'S REALLY EMBARRASSING BECAUSE I WAS THE ONE WHO CONFESSED FIRST, SO I DON'T KNOW IF KUNIYOSHI ACTUALLY REALLY LIKES ME..
I SUDDENLY FELT UNEASY...
EVEN IF WE WERE TOGETHER, I FELT REALLY LONELY,
IF THIS GOES ON, I'M AFRAID HE MIGHT HATE ME...
MUROZONO,
Zaaaaa

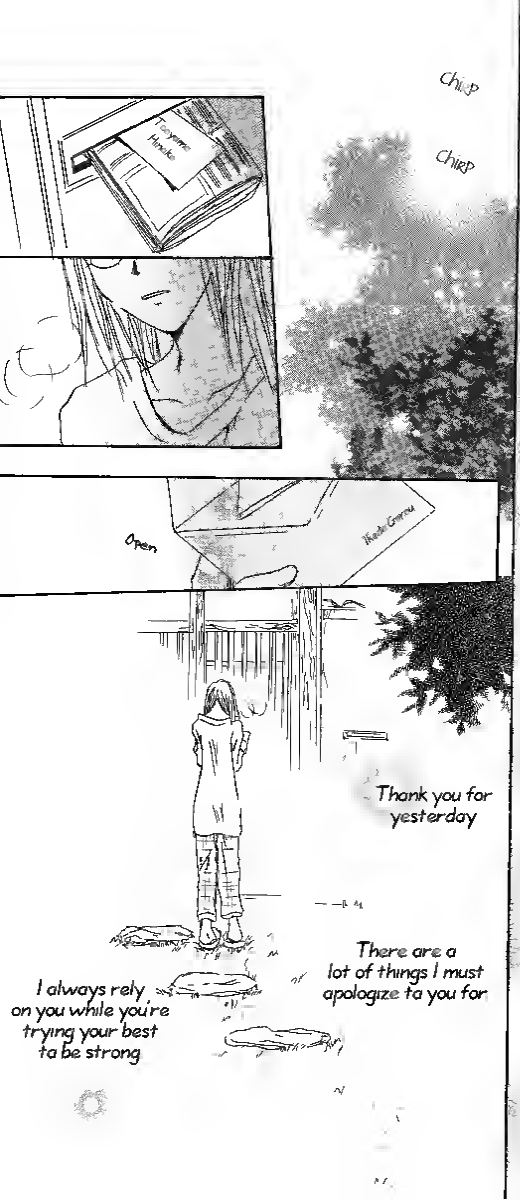

I LIKE YOU
KUNIYOSHI...
HE WILL UNDERSTAND VERY SOON
YOU JUST HAVE TO TRUST HIM.
ARE BOTH MY MOST PRECIOUS FRIENDS.
AND MUROZONO ...

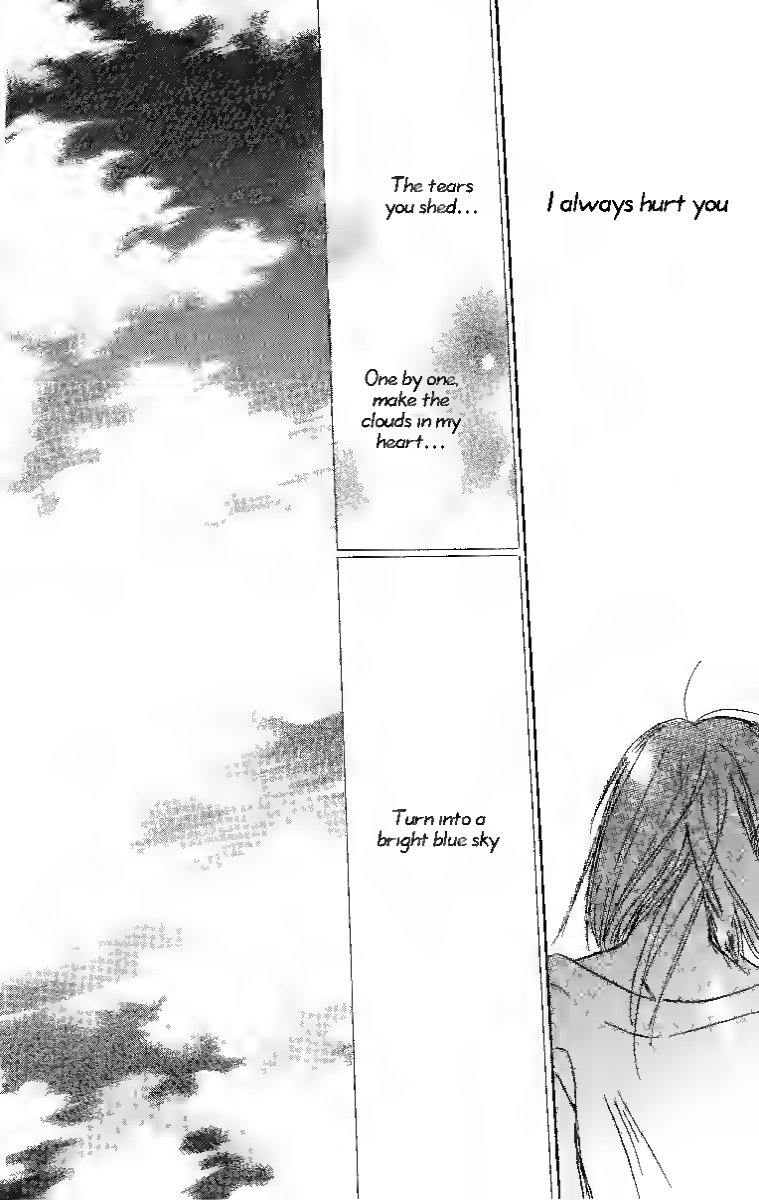
HE WILL UNDERSTAND VERY SOON.
OKAY,
THANK YOU, IKEDA KUN.
THANK YOU, I'M GOING NOW..

THIS HURTFUL FEELING...
I GUESS ... IT REALLY WASN'T NEEDED.
Gulp
Chew Chew

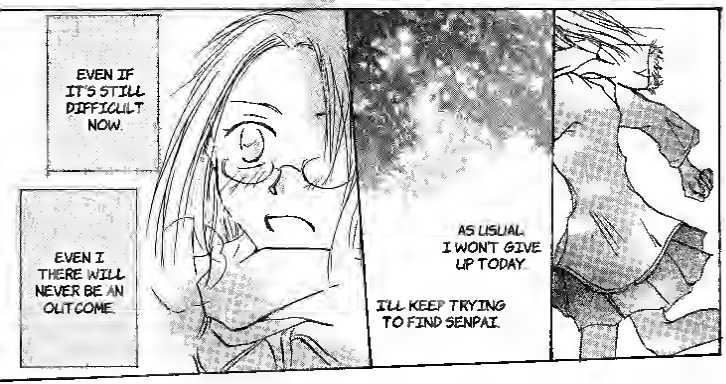

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO YOUR PART-TIME JOB TODAY?
...
CAN. .
CAN I SIT NEXT TO YOU?
THAT NIGHT
WHITE SNOW SILENTLY FELL

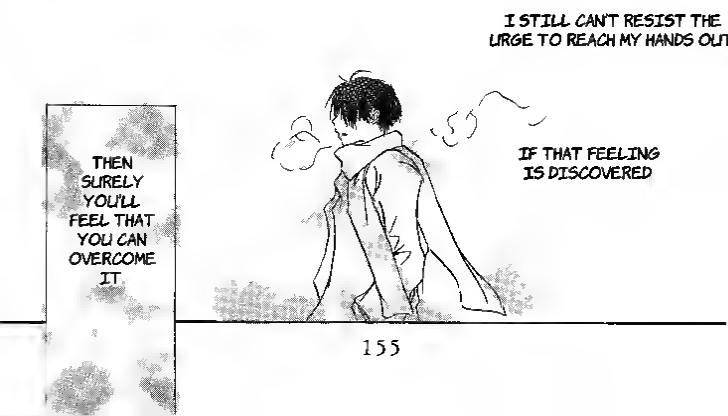

THE REASON...
IS DEFINITELY
BECAUSE OF WINTER
WHY SENPAI FEELS COLD
"THERE ARE STARS,"
"I WANT TO BE WITH
HER FOREVER."
"THE STARS HAVE APPEARED."
"I WANT TO MOVE FORWARD
WITHOUT LOOKING BACK."
"YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE..."
"TO FIND SOMETHING THAT WILL NEVER BREAK..."


Chirp
Chirp
Open
I KNOW.
Thank you for yesterday
There are a lot of things I must apologize to you for
I always rely on you while you're trying your best to be strong


The tears you shed...
I always hurt you
One by one, make the clouds in my heart...
Turn into a bright blue sky

ONE DAY, IKEDA-SENPAI WILL SURELY NOTICE ME, RIGHT?
EH? I GUESS.
IS IKEDA-SENPAI HERE YET?
UWAH! YOUR EYES ARE REALLY RED, TOOYAMA!
MORNING ...


EVEN IF IT'S STILL DIFFICULT NOW.
EVEN I THERE WILL NEVER BE AN OUTCOME.
AS USUAL I WON'T GIVE UP TODAY.
I'LL KEEP TRYING TO FIND SENPAI.


I STILL CAN'T RESIST THE URGE TO REACH MY HANDS OUT.
IF THAT FEELING IS DISCOVERED
THEN SURELY YOU'LL FEEL THAT YOU CAN OVERCOME IT.

WHETHER IT'S A RAINY DAY
OR A WINDY DAY.
OR EVEN A HOT DAY.
COLD DAYS WILL REMAIN LIKE BEFORE.

Atsui Hibi

-Midorikawa Yuki

=Credits=

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NAMELESS GUEST

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
SOMETHING SERIOUS HAS JUST HAPPENED
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, CALM DOWN MISS.
Grrrr!
ARE THEY GOING TO LOCK US UP IN THIS SMALL ROOM FOREVER?!
A GROUP OF ARMED MEN HAVE INFILTRATED A PARTY THAT WAS ATTENDED BY PEOPLE FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD.
CAUSING A RUCKUS ISN'T GOING TO HELP ANYONE.
I'M SURE SOMEONE WILL COME AND SAVE US HAVE SOME PATIENCE
EVERYONE ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE MANAGED TO ESCAPE DURING THE CHAOS,
Even this child...
IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO DIDN'T MANAGE TO ESCAPE...
THE MEN THEN SEIZED THIS EVENT HALL.
BUT UNLUCKILY FOR US, WE WERE CAUGHT AND TAKEN AS HOSTAGES HERE

名前のない客
Nameless Guest

IF ANY ONE OF US ESCAPES, THE REST OF US WILL GET KILLED.
BUT,
I GUESS SO..
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID.
I GUESS THEY WANT THE HOSTAGES TO GUARD EACH OTHER.
AH!
WE HAVEN'T INTRODUCED OURSELVES YET, WOULD EVERYONE LIKE TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES?
I AGREE!
AH, I ALREADY KNOW YOUR NAME.
WE CAN'T ALWAYS BE DEPRESSED
THAT'S A NICE IDEA
THAT'S THE WHOLE REASON WHY I CAME TO--
rattle rattle
rattle
open
HEY, EVERY-BODY,
HAS EVERYBODY BEEN GOOD?

!!
THUD
SHE WAS HIDING BENEATH THE STAIRS
NEVER THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER IDIOT LIKE YOU GUYS WHO NEVER MANAGED TO ESCAPE.
NOW THERE'S FIVE HOSTAGES.
HAVE FUN GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER!
WAIT!
DON'T YOU FEEL SHAMEFUL FOR TREATING A GIRL SO ROUGHLY?!
DISGUSTING
EVEN YOUR ATTIRE IS REALLY..
BY THE WAY, THE AIR CONDITIONING IS A BIT COLD..
YOU ALL BETTER MIND YOUR ATTITUDES!
SLAM!
PLEASE DON'T SIMPLY AGITATE THE CRIMINALS...

A GUY?!
*BREAD ROLL FILLED WITH RED BEAN JAM
EH?!
WAIT... THAT VOICE, ARE YOU A...!
FAKE BREASTS?!
ANYONE WANT TO EAT SOME ANPA*?
Pulls out
W-WHO ARE YOU?!
I'VE COME TO RESCUE SOMEONE BY THE NAME OF TATEISHI HIDEYO.
BE QUIET, UNDER THE COMMAND OF A RENOWNED PERSON.
?!
Ha!
I'VE HEARD OF THIS BEFORE.
WITH A WEALTHY PERSON AS THEIR CLIENT, THERE'S A GROUP THAT'LL DO ANYTHING FROM ESCORTING TO ASSASSINATIONS.
THOSE WHO ACCEPT THOSE SPECIAL TASKS WILL DO ANYTHING AT ALL COSTS TO FULFILL THAT TASK.
EEEH?!
That sounds a bit unreal!

ONE OF YOU IS TATEISHI HIDEYO-SAMA, RIGHT?
SO COME HERE.
YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
Glance
WHY ISN'T ANYONE MOVING?
STRANGE.
...
Scared
WHY DO YOU EVEN NEED TATEISHI HIDEYO TO OWN UP?
SO THAT'S IT.
Zaa
IF ANY ONE OF US LEAVES, EVERYONE ELSE WILL BE KILLED.
Glance

TATEISHI-SAMA IS WORRIED FOR THOSE WHO ARE STILL HERE
BUT, TATEISHI-SAMA,
STAYING HERE WITH EVERYONE WON'T GUARANTEE THAT YOU'LL BE SAFE
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO PASS THIS CHANCE OFF?
SO,
PLEASE FOLLOW ME, TATEISHI-SAMA
HOLD ON,
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL IN THIS?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN CHECK THE TARGET'S APPEARANCE PROPERLY

Ah!
THAT'S RIGHT... THE AGE?
YOU KNOW NOTHING OTHER THAN THE NAME?
MY EARDRUMS ARE GOING TO BREAK, AS IT WAS SUCH A SUDDEN REQUEST. I ALSO NEVER THOUGHT THAT THE TARGET WOULDN'T CO-OPERATE...
Pull up
I GUESS THERE'S NO CHOICE, SINCE THE TARGET WON'T CO-OPERATE,
I HAVE NO CHOICE EITHER
AH, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
YOUR TARGET, TATEISHI-SAMA IS AMONGST US, YOU WOULDN'T THINK OF DOING SOMETHING UNREASONABLE?
EH, I HEARD TATEISHI-SAMA IS A VERY CARING PERSON
AND WOULD MIND WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, TOO
I WILL NOT LIE,
LIKE I SAID, I WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY
SO I HOPE TATEISHI-SAMA WILL CO-OPERATE BEFORE I CUT ALL MY FINGERS OFF

!!
FIRST SHALL BE THE LITTLE FINGER.
BA
M!
Thud
Slide
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
STOP BEING SO IRRATIONAL!
WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT FOR US TO JUST TIE YOU UP?!
I ABSO-LUTELY CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
tremble
tremble
...

LISTEN! IF YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN,
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!
WE ALL THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO BE SAVED!
EVERYONE IS ACTUALLY SO AFRAID THEY'RE ABOUT TO CRY,
IT WASN'T EASY FOR US TO FINALLY GET OURSELVES TOGETHER AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER.
HOW CAN YOU PROTECT OTHERS WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN CHERISH YOURSELF!
Ha!
SOMEONE'S COMING.
GYAA!!
QUIET,

そして 三本目
「寒い日も..」

ついに「恋愛モノ」を描くことができました！ｗｗ
難しくて とてもパワーが必要でしたが 今までとはちょっと違う楽しさを感じることができました。
キャラクター達にも かなり助けてもらえた気がします。
遠山が 主人公として 最後まで 描きあげることが できたのでは と思っています。

長い間 はたせなかった 約束を やっと はたせたような気持ちでした。
元担当様 新担当様 そして そして 読者様 本当に つきあってくださって ありがとうございました。
今後も 精進しますので ぜひ ご意見や感想 励ましの言葉を きかせてやってくださいませ！

ぐらぐらした文で 申し訳ない？
とにもかくにも ここに入れて頂いた作品は 愛情こめて 創ったものばかりです。どれか ひとつでも 気に入っていただけたら 幸せです。 では。

1/9 あかり。

I'VE COME TO GET YOU.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALRIGHT, MIFUNE ARISA-SAMA
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER PERSON LIKE YOU.
She managed to recognize her target easily.
SHE'S EVEN A BEAUTY!
THAT GIRL IS MIFUNE ARISA...
ONLY THE THREE OF US.
NOW,
YOU HAVE ONE LESS POSSIBILITY FOR TATEISHI-SAMA.

WAIT!
THE ONE I'M SUPPOSED TO PROTECT IS STILL IN THIS ROOM—
YES.
WE'RE IN THE SAME GUILD, RIGHT!
CLICK
NOW,
Ah!
HMPH, NONE OF MY BUSINESS
DON! DON!
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?!
IT'S COMING FROM THE HOSTAGES' ROOM!

I HOPE EVERYONE WILL MANAGE TO PROLONG THE TIME.
Suru Suru Suru
SHU
Grip
Smash
Smash
NOW THEN,
THE CEILING HAS A HOLE..!
ah!
RUN RUN RUN
OPEN THIS DOOR YOU BRATS!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
OI! WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?! WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?!
Rattle Rattle
OPEN THIS DOOR!
RUN
RUN

EEHP!!
I ATE THE ANPA ...
Sorry..
WIG!
SCATCH
SCATCH
W-WHERE'S THE WIG?!
When did he put it on?!
THUMP
THUMP
T-THE WIG!
AND THE ANPA!
THE SKIRT TOO!
THUMP
IT'S STILL FUTILE! EVEN IF YOU CHANGED BACK, WE'RE STILL ONE PERSON SHORT!
THUMP
IF THIS GOES ON, ONE OF US WILL SERIOUSLY GET KILLED!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
CLATTER
?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE OURSELVES NOW!
USE THE TABLES AND CHAIRS TO BLOCK THE DOOR, AND THEN WE'LL ESCAPE BY CLIMBING UP THE ROPE!

BANG!
WHAT?! THE HOSTAGES HAVE ESCAPED?!
AH! THE CEILING HAS A HOLE
They probably escaped from there
Clank
Clank
ARISA-CHAN WILL BE FINE, RIGHT...
WITH THAT GIRL PROTECTING HER, SHE'S WAY SAFER THAN WITH ME HAVING TO PROTECT THREE OTHER PEOPLE
...HEY,
Easily pissed, isn't he...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SINCE THE OPPOSITE PARTY AREN'T GOING TO TELL THEIR OWN NAMES, I HAVE NO NEED TO TELL MINE.
GRAH!!
WHY YOU!
SINCE YOU WON'T TELL US YOUR NAME, I'LL SIMPLY GIVE YOU ONE!
AS YOU PLEASE.

WHAT?
36?
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME
...
CUTIE NIGHTINGALE!
DARK SHADOW BOY!
YAMADA TAROU!
I'M 36!
WHERE ARE WE?
LOOKS LIKE AN AIR CONDITIONING ROOM.
Clatter
...
SA-BURO!
SABURO
NUMBER 36
No difference with Yamada Tarou
Rejected
THERE SHOULD BE ANOTHER AIR CONDITIONING ROOM STRAIGHT DOWN THIS HALLWAY ON THE RIGHT.
FROM THE PIPE SHAFT THERE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET TO THE BASEMENT.
WE MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO GET TO THE PARKING LOT OF THE PARK NEXT TO THIS BUILDING.
open

EVERYONE CAN RUN, RIGHT? LET'S GO.
Dash!
THE CRIMINALS' MOTIVE IS TO EXCHANGE YOU ALL FOR THE RELEASE OF THEIR COMRADES.
FROM WHAT I SAW, THERE WERE AROUND 8 OF THEM, 5 OF THEM CARRYING GUNS.
PLEASE DON'T TRY TO GO OUTSIDE. THERE MIGHT BE SOME GUARDS THERE
FORTUNATELY, NONE OF THEM LOOK INTELLIGENT AT ALL...
THIS PLACE IS BIG TOO.
SO THERE'S A LOT OF PLACES WE CAN HIDE.
DON'T WORRY!
WE'LL DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO ESCAPE!

SHOCK
DON'T MOVE OR WE'LL SHOOT!
FOUND THEM!
Trip
Thud
GYAA!!
Run
Run
SABU-ROU-KUN!
A!
YOU TWO GO AHEAD!
JUST FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS I GAVE!
LET'S GO!
BUT..!

THROW!
CLANK
Air-conditioning room
FOUND IT.
THIS MUST BE THE SHAFT.
IT LOOKS BIG ENOUGH FOR US TO FIT THROUGH
PLEASE WAIT, THOSE TWO AREN'T HERE YET.
BUT...
LET'S JUST GO FIRST WITH SABUROU-KUN'S DIRECTIONS.
IN ORDER TO DISTRACT THE CULPRIT FROM US, THEY WILL PROBABLY USE ANOTHER ROUTE TO ESCAPE.
I...
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE.
BUT I CAN'T...
...

Run
Run
Ha!
UWA!
BAM!
WHAT NOW?
WHAT NOW?
IF AT THIS PLACE, HE...

IF...
IF HE FINDS OUT I'M NOT TATEISHI HIDEYO.
HE...
SO LET ME WAIT FOR HIM, YOU GO FIRST.
I'D GET YOU OUT NO MATTER WHAT.
SINCE THAT'S THE CASE I MUST GET YOU OUT
HE'S RISKING HIS LIFE ALL BECAUSE OF ME.
A WHILE AGO YOU GAVE UP THAT CHANCE TO SAVE US
SO THIS TIME, I MUST DEFINITELY MAKE SURE YOU ESCAPE THIS ALIVE.

THIS IS FOR SABUROU-KUN'S SAKE TOO.
NOW WE SHOULD BE HELPING HIM LESSEN HIS BURDEN.

RUN
RUN
RUN
FOUND THEM?!
NO, NOT HERE, TOO...
HURRY AND FIND THEM!
RUN RUN RUN...
Haa
Haa
Haa
WHAT NOW?
IF AT THIS PLACE AND TIME LIKE THIS,
HE FINDS OUT I'M NOT TATEISHI HIDEYO...

HE'LL DEFINITELY LEAVE ME!
YOU LOOK PALE.
I'M FINE
...OH?
Don't mind it...
LET'S REST FOR A WHILE.
BUT, I CAN'T GIVE UP NOW,
I CAN'T END EVERYTHING HERE.
BY THE WAY, I'VE BEEN WONDERING,
WHY ARE YOU WEARING YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM?
!!
EH?! AH! THIS?!
NO REASON!
IT'S JUST A PROBLEM OF WHEN HE'S GOING TO FIND OUT!
...
OI!
WHO'S THERE?!
THEY FOUND US!

ZAA
RUN AWAY NOW!
EH!
WA-
Dash
!!
KNO
CK
THUD
DAMN
YOU!

Step
Step
Hai
...
THANK GOODNESS, YOU'RE AWAKE.

WHERE ARE WE?
...
BECAUSE YOU HAD A SERIOUS NOSEBLEED, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO DIE!
I'M NOT SURE,
PROBABLY THE FURTHEST SIDE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR
YOU DRAGGED ME ALONG ALL THE WAY HERE WITH THEM SEARCHING FOR US?!
YOU DID SOMETHING VERY DANGEROUS!
NOW,
I CAN GO OFF ON MY OWN.

I DON'T WANT ANYONE SACRIFICING THEMSELVES FOR ME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SO LET'S SPLIT UP.
IF I'M WITH SARUBOU, THE CHANCES OF ESCAPING ARE DEFINITELY HIGH.
YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO ESCAPE ALONE
I CAN ESCAPE ON MY OWN TOO!
SO...
BUT WITH ME AROUND,
I CAN'T DO THAT,
I—
"MUST PROTECT TATEISHI-SAMA"?
IF SO, THEN WE DON'T HAVE TO DISCUSS FURTHER
SARUBOU WON'T MIND YOUR LIFE AT ALL, RIGHT?

I...
I LIKE PLAYING THE VIOLIN,
I PRACTICED AND PRACTICED,
AND RECENTLY, I WON A VERY ASTOUNDING PRIZE.
I'M...
NOT TATEISHI HIDEYO.
NOR AM I SOME RICH OR IMPORTANT MAN'S DAUGHTER

MY NAME IS OMINE KAYANO,
BECAUSE I RECEIVED SUCH AN ASTOUNDING PRIZE AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE, I EASILY ATTRACTED ATTENTION
I WAS INVITED TO THE PARTY FOR A VIOLIN PERFORMANCE,
BECAUSE IT WAS RARE FOR A STUDENT TO WIN, SO THEY ASKED ME TO WEAR MY SCHOOL UNIFORM.
PLEASE REMEMBER IT,
BECAUSE ONE DAY, I'LL BECOME THE WORLD'S MOST RENOWNED VIOLINIST!
THUMP THUMP
OI! THEY'RE IN THIS ROOM!
AH! IT'S THEM!
OPEN THE DOOR!
RUN RUN RUN
RUN RUN

...
TAKE CARE.
...I WONDER HOW MANY OF THEM ARE OUTSIDE
I CAN'T GUARANTEE WE'LL BE SAFE.
YOU UNDERSTAND RIGHT, SARUBOU-KUN.
WHEN THEY MANAGE TO COME IN, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS JUST ESCAPE ON YOUR OWN,
EVEN IF THIS IS THE THIRD FLOOR,
IT LOOKS DEEP ENOUGH.
THERE'S A LAKE JUST OUTSIDE,
I'LL SURELY BE ABLE TO ESCAPE!

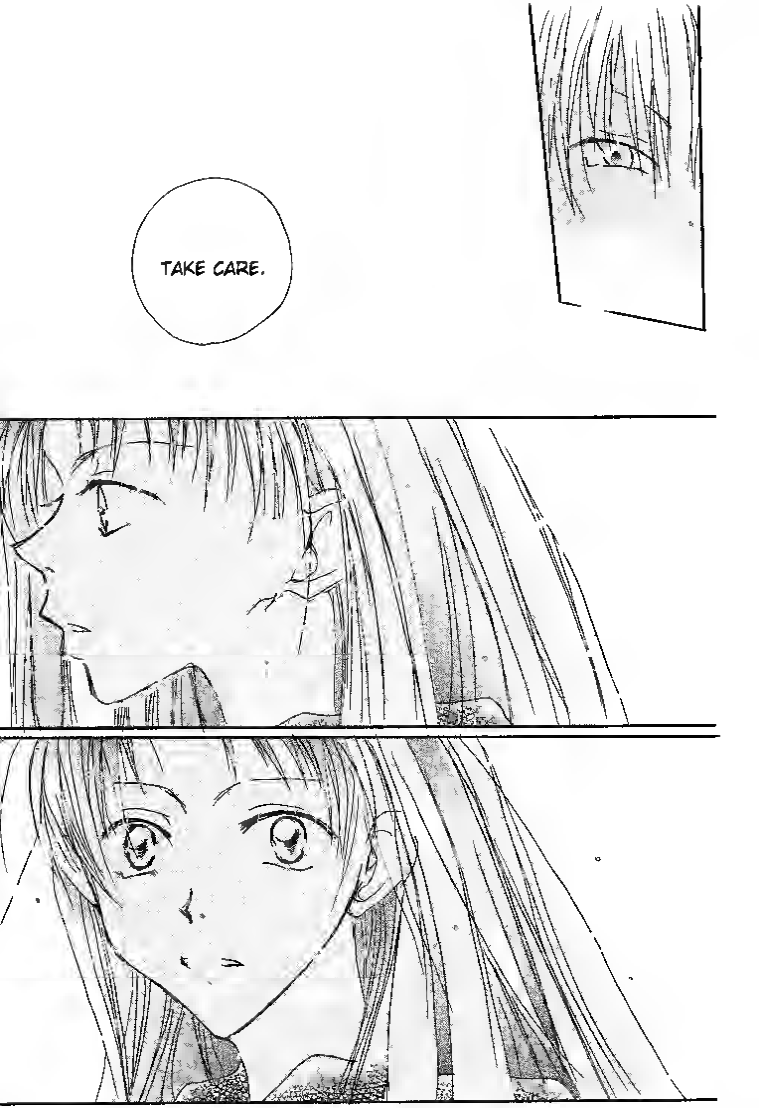
BAM!

SHOOTING SOUND
Da Da Da Da Da Da
WAAH?!
They're opening fire?!
AH! SHIT!
WE'RE BEING SURROUNDED BY THE POLICE AND THEY'VE ENTERED THE BUILDING!
EH?!
TSK, THEY JUMPED DOWN!
WHEN THEY FLOAT UP, OPEN FIRE AT THEM!
Splash
shuuuu
Haaa
Sp
lash
Cough
Cough
Cough
THANK YOU, SARUBOU-KUN.

*BIG SISTER

ARISA-CHAN.
WE'VE TAKEN A LEAD
FORTUNATELY, YOU AND SARUBOU-KUN MANAGED TO ESCAPE JUST WHEN THEY FORCED THEMSELVES IN
WHERE'S SARUBOU-KUN?
WE TOLD THE POLICE ABOUT THE SITUATION INSIDE AND THE NUMBER OF THEM
THANK GOODNESS EVERYONE MANAGED TO ESCAPE!
Splash
YES
AH, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET,
MIFUNE ARISA!
I'M EZU KYOUKO.
HE ALREADY LEFT.
OH...

I KNOW! OMINE KAYANO!
I'M...
I ACTUALLY ONLY CAME TO THE PARTY BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU PERFORM!
THIS PROBABLY HAPPENED PROBABLY BECAUSE OF MY FATHER
AND I'M... TATEISHI HIDEYO


TAKE CARE.

TAKE CARE

AFTERWORD

Atsui Hibi

"A guy and a girl on a bridge, seeing another guy in the water. Because I had an urge to draw something like that, this story came to be. I always thought that readers usually get excited from a thought like 'Who should I kill next?', so I did my best and I hope no one was able to predict the ending. Kuniyoshi and his gang made me really happy.

Ikeda who was fated to undergo an unfortunate life, was a character I wanted to draw really nicely.

Kinda Day like Before

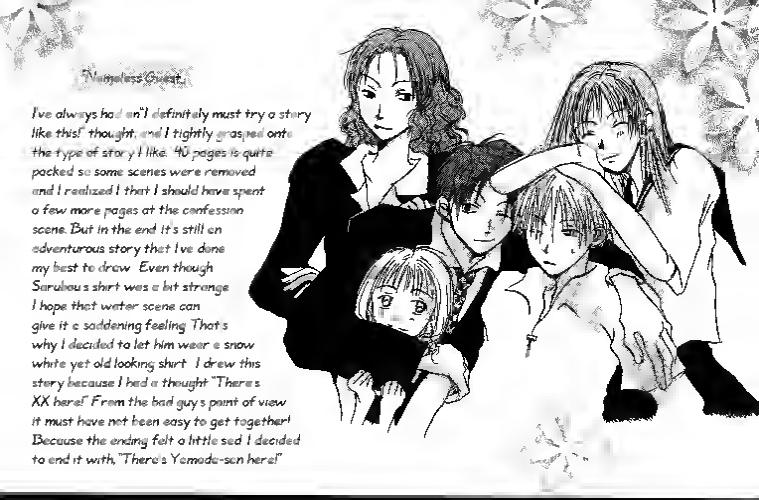
At first, I wanted to use fake names for the whole thing, but because it looked strange, I decided not to. Is very very cold liver? The meaning is very deep when I think about it. Lovers... Ah, a bit sidetracked! Anyway back to my thoughts on the story! Tooyama's eyes were re-drawn over and over again exactly 12 times. She's a lively but kind of daydream-ish type of girl. I even tried to draw Murozono more with other risks. As Ikeda is a bit violent, he wouldn't really get too close with girls. Though Tooyama might face a lot of problems, she'll still manage to solve them. Not Ikeda but these fuzzy stuffs.

Flower's Mark-ing

I had previously wanted to draw a heroic type of girl, but because Kikuchi is such a gentle girl, even Kurata felt like getting close to her. So with 50 pages at hand, I was really frustrated. What could I do but to just draw with pure vigor? But I still managed to draw it out nicely. To drowning Kikuchi and Kurata's thoughts was really difficult but I enjoyed it.

Whenever I had the fever when I was young, I always dreamed of flowers just twirling while they fell to the ground.

Tamao-sen, thank you very much.

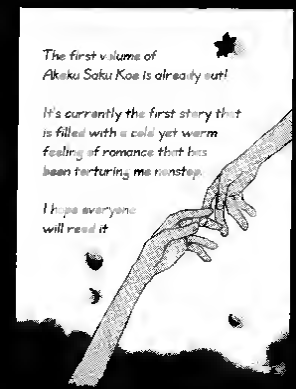


"Nameless Guest"

I've always had an "I definitely must try a story like this!" thought, and I tightly grasped onto the type of story I like. 40 pages is quite packed so some scenes were removed and I realized I that I should have spent a few more pages at the confession scene. But in the end it's still an adventurous story that I've done my best to draw. Even though Saruhou's shirt was a bit strange I hope that water scene can give it a saddening feeling. That's why I decided to let him wear a snow white yet old looking shirt. I drew this story because I had a thought "There's XX here!" From the bad guy's point of view it must have not been easy to get together! Because the ending felt a little sad I decided to end it with, "There's Yamada-san here!"

SO HOW DID EVERYONE FIND IT?
WHILE DRAWING ATSUI HIBI I FOUND A LOT OF
HARD AND HAPPY MOMENTS. IF I GET THE CHANCE,
I'D LIKE TO DRAW SOMETHING LIKE THIS AGAIN!
(BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF SMALL STORIES)

PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU THOUGHT!


The first volume of
Akaku Saku Koe is already out!
It's currently the first story that is filled with a cold yet warm feeling of romance that has been torturing me nonstop.
I hope everyone will read it

-ADDRESS-

THANK YOU TO ALL MY COLLEAGUES AND READERS
WHO HAVE BEEN VERY PATIENT WITH ME!
I WILL AIM TO DRAW MORE INTERESTING STORIES!

I hope we can meet again, so farewell for now!

2003 3 /Midorikawa Yuki

AFTERWORD/END